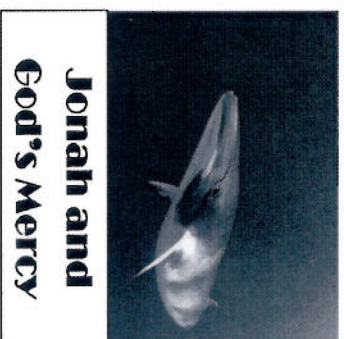


GOD'S STORY OUR STORY

TM

November 6, 2016



Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

You see our failings, Lord, and know the weakness of our hearts. Set us right and fill us with love and zeal for the people whom you love, just as Jesus has shown us. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways,

God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. Jonah 3:5, 10

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

If you want a job done, don't send Jonah. Chances are he'll end up on a cruise heading in the opposite direction, or putting his fellow sailors in mortal peril. And when he finally (reluctantly) relents to the task at hand, he regrets his own success. Is God's mercy great enough even for the resistant prophet?

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

God offered mercy to Jonah's enemies and to Jonah. Neither was more deserving than the other.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Jonah and God's Mercy*, Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

Monday: *Zephanian Prophesies Against the Kingdoms*, Zephaniah 1:1-4-18

Tuesday: *Nahum Prophesies of God's Wrath*, Nahum 1:1-11

Wednesday: *Habakkuk Prophesies and Prays*, Habakkuk 3:1-19

Thursday: *God Calls Jeremiah*, Jeremiah 1:1-19

Friday: *Ezekiel Sees a Vision*, Ezekiel 1:1-28

Saturday: *The Valley of Dry Bones*, Ezekiel 37:1-14

How does God show mercy in these readings?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What countries or cultures do you most dislike? Why? How will you treat these neighbors knowing that God has asked you to love and serve people there?

When have you been angry with God for being generous with a someone you felt deserved punishment? What could you do to show love, rather than anger or hatred?

DO: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Do some research on a country or culture that you find it difficult to appreciate. Learn about what they eat, what holidays they celebrate, where and how they worship, what they wear, and more. Does your increased understanding make it easier or harder to love them?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you. May God bless your enemies. Amen.