

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

Sunday 1st August 2021

Bible Passages

Jonah chapter 1

Psalm 139

1 Tim 2:4

Theme & Introduction

During August we take a break from our “God in my Everything” series and have a look at the story of Jonah. It has much to tell us about God’s persistent love for all people, the effects of our obedience and disobedience to God, and perhaps most of all that you can’t run away from God!

Questions

1. Read Jonah ch 1 together. Look at it in silence for a couple of minutes and then share anything particular that strikes you.
2. A refrain in Alan’s sermon was “you can’t run away from God”. You can turn your back on Him, you can ignore Him, but you cannot run away from Him. Share any experiences you have of drifting away from faith and how God called you back.
3. God did something extraordinary in Nineveh, despite Jonah’s failures and disobedience. Have you ever not done something that you thought God was asking you to do because you felt inadequate for the task? What encouragement can we find in Jonah’s story?
4. Read 1 Timothy 2:4. The Ninevite Empire was a particularly brutal one. Residents of cities they were attacking sometimes chose to take their own lives rather than be taken captive and tortured – yet the story of Jonah shows God’s care for them. Paul writes that God wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. How might that affect our attitude to evangelism? How might it affect how your group functions: how you pray, your expectation of actively inviting new members, the kind of people you invite to join etc?
5. End by one person reading Psalm 139 out loud slowly. Leave some silence and then move straight into prayer for each other’s deepening relationship with God.

END

AJH 31/07/2021