

How Would You Have Written Jonah's Story?

The Bible is filled with obedient responses from people of heroic faith. So what should God do with Jonah? How would you have written Jonah's story?

Opened and Closed Doors

Some people follow God through the assumption of open and closed doors. However, open doors don't always lead to the will of God. And closed doors don't always indicate God's dis-favor. Just because the going get's rough doesn't necessarily mean that God isn't at work. Sometimes knowing God's will requires less assessment of the current resource pool and more listening. (How do you discern God's will? Have you ever used the test of opened and closed doors?)

God's Blessing and God's Mission

You can expect God's blessing when you are in the sweet spot of God's mission. Jonah is running from God's will and simultaneously, whether he knows it or not, he is running from God. One of the things we learn from Jonah's story, perhaps the central thing, is that there is no better way to resist the will of God than by resisting the grace of God as it is extended to others. (Response? When are you tempted to resist the grace of God as applied to others?)

Grace is Everywhere

God's blessing and God's will and God's resources are in Nineveh. And yet even when Jonah is thrown down into the chaos of the stormy sea, grace finds him in the belly of a big fish. There is no escaping God's grace. (Have you found this to be true? Have you ever found grace in the midst of your disobedience?)

*Prayer
Corner*

Barb Long: home recovering
Pam Long: In manor care

All Church Picnic

When: Sunday, August 21
Immediately after service in lieu of Sunday School

Where: @ the Pavilion:
828 Old Forge Road, New Cumberland

What Provided:
Hot dogs with choices of chili, sauerkraut, cheese whiz, and condiments. And also Drinks

What to Bring:
1 side or dessert to share
Lawn chair, if you like

Join us in a time of fellowship, good food and outdoor games!

In the case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held in the Gathering Place.



Family Promise

Opportunity to Assist Homeless Families through Family Promise/Lemoyne

Two way to help:

*Gift cards to Walmart: smaller denominations \$10s and \$20s. (Smaller denominations easier to divide between families) Fill free to donate money towards the gift cards, just mark Family Promise on an envelope the place in offering

*Toiletry items: (full size)

Shampoo
bath soap
hand soap

shower gel
deodorant
toothbrushes and toothpaste

Place donations in the box in the foyer
Collection deadline Sunday, **August 14**
Thank you for your generous giving!

<http://www.familypromisehcr.org/>

Weekly Wednesday Events from 6:45 -8:30PM

VBS 3 years to 5th Grade Meet in the Worship Center

Youth Group: 6th - 12th Grade Meet at The Gathering Place

Trim Mama Book Study; Maria Sweeney-- Rippon 613 16th St.

Rev. Rob Kazee, Lead Pastor

Email: rjkazee@aol.com Cell:202-997-1222

10:00AM - 11:30 AM Worship Service

11:30 AM - 12 :30PM Sunday School

617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070

717-774-6444

[www. Facebook.com/ncnazarene](http://www.Facebook.com/ncnazarene)



email: ncnaz@ncnazarene.org website: www.ncnazarene.org

WELCOME

TO

WORSHIP

*Worship Order
and
Community Life*

New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene

Order of Worship
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 2016

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Scripture Reading: Readings from Jonah
Sermon Series: “Majoring in the Minors”
Sermon Three: “Jonah”

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Consecration
The Lord’s Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

*If you are a guest with us today,
Please take time to fill out a Connection Card.
The ushers will be picking them up
later in the service.
Thank You*

Please visit us on our website, www.ncnazarene.org
for details of events.
Also you will find, photos, monthly newsletters,
bulletins, online giving and you can also
send prayer request to the prayer chain.

JULY/ AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug 3 VBS: Survivors: Learn to Thrive	6:45PM
Aug 3 Teen activity: Bowling	6:45PM
Aug 6 First Saturday Pray Breakfast / for Men and Women	8:30AM
Aug 10 Teen activity: Sole Hope and Sweet Frog	6:45PM
Aug 14 Market Street Breakfast Mission	6:45PM
Aug 14 After Church Fellowship	11:30AM

Sermon Reflection Guide

New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene
For Personal Reflection and Communal Conversation
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost,
Sermon Series: “Majoring in the Minors”
Sermon Three: “Jonah”

Jonah 1.1-17

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, “Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.” The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” “I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry

land.” Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Question for Everyone

(1) I seldom laugh. There are just too many tragedies in this life. (10) I love to laugh. The world is full of mirth and whimsy. Where are you on this laughter spectrum?

Laughter

What makes you laugh? Are you a fan of the slapstick or is subtle humor more your thing? Jonah’s story is best received and understood through humor. The reader is invited to laugh at the Inspector Jacques Clouseau/Stephen Colbert of the Hebrew Prophets. How might humor help us understand Jonah?

Faithful Disobedience

Jonah proves that you can be full of faith and disobedient at the same time. Jonah is full of faith, faithful. He just doesn’t want to do what God wants him to do. I find Jonah’s faithful disobedience refreshing. I mean lots of people find all kinds of creative ways to avoid God’s will. (Have you found this to be true?)