

## Reading & Prayer

1 YHWH's word came to Jonah, Amittai's son, as follows: 2 "Up! Go to Nineveh, that great metropolis, and condemn it because their evil has ascended before me!"

**3 So Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish, away from YHWH's presence. He descended to Joppa. He found a ship bound for Tarshish. He paid its hire, and he descended into it to accompany them to Tarshish, away from YHWH's presence.**

4 Meanwhile, YHWH flung a great gale toward the sea. A great storm ensued on the sea. As for the ship, it threatened to burst apart. 5 The mariners feared, and each one cried out to his god, and they flung the cargo that was on the ship to the sea to lighten for themselves.

But as for Jonah, he had descended into the bowels of the ship's hold. And there he lay down and fell fast asleep. 6 The helmsman approached him and said to him, "How can you be sleeping? Up! Cry out to your god! Perhaps the deity will consider our plight so that we are not destroyed."

7 Then each one said to his shipmate, "Come! And let us cast lots that we might discover on whose account this disaster has befallen us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 They inquired of him, "Please, tell us on whose account this disaster has befallen us. What is your occupation? And where do you come? What country do you claim? And to which of its people do you belong?"

9 And he responded, "I am a Hebrew, and YHWH, the God of heaven, I fear, who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men feared a great fear, and they asked him, "What have you done?" For the men knew that he was fleeing YHWH's presence because he had told them so.

## On Mission to Newport - Christ's Ambassadors

### 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. 13 If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

### read the scripture

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

**Is there one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.**

How does this Scripture relate to : **Knowing God's Story - Knowing Christ In You - Knowing God's Mission?**

## start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

The **slow descent** is one decision after another which ultimately leads us away from God. Jonah was consciously "fleeing the presence of the Lord" when he **descended** to Joppa and then **descended** into the ship.

Jonah, **descending** to Joppa, a non-Israelite community, is his first step away from God - leaving the community of God. **How does being in the community of God's people help us stay focused on God's mission and our personal role?**

**What is the first step in being a disciple of Jesus on the Oregon Coast? How is this first step accomplished?**

How much does your world-view about humanity influences the way you think about **evangelism**? How do words like lost, broken, evil, sin, fallen, deceived play a part?

## start sharing. engage it with your story

Have you given thought to how you might intentionally engage people with **Good News**? Jonah had a ministry of **condemnation** to Nineveh, but we have been given a ministry of **reconciliation**. **Whats to difference?**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

**What stands out to you in these scriptures?**

**How are they made personal to you?**

## start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

**Prayer - our conversation with God - is the only way to keep His mission before us daily. To ask the Lord, "I want to take part in Your ministry of reconciling the world back to you, lead me today." This kind of prayer will create a conscious effort to allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you.**

## start praying. be bold and pray with power