

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?
Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?
Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday November 7th – Jesus Validates Jonah’s Story (Matthew 12:39-41). Jesus referred to the story as genuine history. Some critics like to dwell on the English words “fish” in Jonah 1:17 (Hebrew) and “whale” (Greek) in Matthew 12:40. It’s actually an easy conflict to resolve that the Hebrew word *dag* and the Greek word *ketos* are both generic words that mean any aquatic creature. There was even a case in the early 1900’s where a sailor was swallowed by a large sperm whale off the coast of the Falkland Islands. After three days he was recovered, unconscious but alive and with skin deterioration. Regardless, we know the story of Jonah has much to teach us because Jesus said so.

Tuesday, November 8th – God Cares for Everyone (Genesis 22:18). God works through the Hebrew people as the chosen ones or promised ones. However, God’s love and compassion for all the people of the earth continually emerges. When God sends the prophet Jonah as a “missionary” to the Ninevites, we have one of the best examples in the Hebrew Bible. Were the Ninevites Hebrews? No. So they were what? Gentiles. God sends Jonah long before Jesus was born to bring peace and forgiveness to the Gentiles.

Wednesday, November 9th – God is in Control (Psalm 22:28, Proverbs 14:34, Daniel 2:21; 4:17). The story of Jonah reminds us that God is in control of all nations and their destiny. God rules in the kingdoms and moves people around according to God’s standards. A nation will rise or fall based on its response to God’s guidance. Nineveh was given 40 days to repent and as a result it was spared destruction for more than 150 years. Assyria (which Nineveh was a part) returned to its old ways and fell to the Babylonians in 612 BC.

Thursday, November 10th – Humanity is Accountable to God (Jonah 1:2, 1 John 3:4, Romans 4:15, 1 Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 13:4). The story of Jonah is a powerful reminder that although people were outside the Law of Moses, they were still accountable to God’s Heavenly standards. Jehovah sees the wickedness of the people in Nineveh and moves to punish them. How has the love of Jesus Christ helped to establish a standard where anyone “outside” the traditions of God are loved and brought in?

Friday, November 11th – People can Change (Matthew 12:41, Luke 11:30). The words Jonah brought to Nineveh were short and powerful. The account in Jonah shows what happens when the word of God comes into contact with any human being who is honest and has a good heart (Luke 8:15). Why were the people so wicked? In 765 and 759 BC Nineveh had suffered severe plagues. The death and suffering created a place for violence and immorality to flourish. Do you think this suffering served a purpose where their god ignored their suffering but the Lord of all was willing to adopt them? What might that message mean to the Ninevites who had lost so much?

Saturday, November 12th – Repentance Requires Works? (Matthew 12:41, Jonah 3:10, Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30). I would argue that the repentance didn’t “require” works but that the true spirit of repentance had the fruit of actions. They were so moved and ashamed they sat in ashes and in sackcloth. They repented and made sure it was visible. It was a complete turning around from a previous pattern of belief and behavior. We are required to live out our salvation by loving others and serving God in our community. We are meant to be bearers of hope and comfort for others. Read Romans 15:4. What does Paul mean that the Scriptures written before the Gospels are meant to bring us comfort and hope? What about the story of Jonah brings you hope?

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Eric Krebs, Gene Krebs, Meredith Hogan (Adam Zietlow), Charlie Walters, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark