

Notes for the word section week beginning Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February

## **Jonah** **Grace upon Grace**

**Read:** Jonah 1:1-17, 2:10-3:5

**Summary:**

We know that *the Lord sent a great fish...* we serve a supernatural God. We believe in a God of miracles! Campbell Morgan “We have looked so hard at the great fish, we have failed to see the great God.”

Jonah is given a task from God that he does not like so decides to run away. The call of God is demanding yet when running away he ran straight into a storm.

At the start of chapter 3 we read that the word of the Lord came a second time...we know from the beginning of chapter one that the word of the Lord had come a first time. It is by grace that we are saved... Ephesians 2:4&5. We are naturally enemies of God with no understanding of God, we were dead, totally unable to respond... BUT GOD! Because of His great love for us... God walked into our life, we did not even open the door – we were dead!

We see in the story of Jonah ‘**Grace upon Grace**’ ... God came a second time! There is an inexhaustible supply of grace that God lavishes on us!

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| Jonah disobeyed.     | Often as Christians our sins weigh us down, we feel like we have failed....yet there is more grace.   |
| Jacob deceived.      | He cheated his brother and ran away. God meets Jacob a second time at Peniel!   |
| David the adulterer. | A young man who loves God but falls for a married woman. He ends up murdering her husband... yet the Lord loved him and came a second time.   |
| Peter the deserter.  | He proclaims Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, yet denies him 3 times. Jesus love sand him asks him to feed his sheep.                        |
| Mark the divider.    | Paul and Barnabas fall out over Marks behaviour yet we later read in Colossians 4:10 that he is with Paul again... grace comes a second time. |

We may think why bother? – Why not play the system?

Each one hits a storm when they run from God... Jacob faced exile, David lost a child and Jonah almost lost his life!

If you are facing a difficult time and know God is everywhere but cannot feel him now – like many of the Psalmists... there is grace!

If like Archippus you have gone off the boil and tended to give up...I used to... remember that there is grace!

If like Thomas you believe the God of history but are not sure that he will do it today, right here right now...there is grace!

We serve who God who declares there is grace upon grace!

***Application:***

Please select form the following. The aim is to encourage honest application, please do not attempt all the questions. It is really good to make time to pray for one another!

1. Was there anything preached that needs clarifying to you?
2. What one thing did God say to you and what do you need to do as a result?
3. One or two share about how you the time you first discovered the grace of God for you! (How you got saved!)
4. In what ways do you find the call of God demanding? When are you tempted to give up? How do you keep going?
5. What can stop us from keep coming back for more grace? How does it feel to keep on receiving when we know we don't deserve it?
6. Have you ever experience a storm as you tried to run away from God. What was it like and what have you learnt as a result?
7. Are you as spiritually active as you used to be? Do you still serve in the church like you once did? How can you make sure you stay involved in the future?
8. How are you actively building on the promises of God?
9. Pray for one another that we all may know more of the grace of God in our lives!