

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: JONAH, PART 3

*Keep this conversation no longer than 40-45 minute. Be aware of any people who might not yet be Christ-followers, and be inclusive of them.*

### Brief

This small group is unusual. Instead of exploring just what was preached on Sunday it explores extra material. The night consists of a lengthy self-audit time. And is followed by groups of 3 sharing of the results as well as a time of prayer together. It is very important that everyone gets a photocopy of pages 2 and 3 - the pages with the charts on - as well as a pen/pencil to fill in the last chart.

### Understanding and applying Jonah chapter 1

1. Read Jonah 2 together as a group.
2. *Optionally, download and play the 6 minute audio clip available on the website, called 'Jonah Pt 3 Audio Summary.mp3.'*
3. *Get everyone to, on their own, do a lengthy self-audit with 2 aspects:*
  - 1) *measuring current level of grace-revelation and*
  - 2) *identifying one's own idols and how to get free from them.*

Self-Audit Part 1: To see how deeply grace is currently at work in your life, answer three questions with a rating of 1 to 5 (1 being totally absent and 5 being present all the time):

- 1) Are you free of self-righteously and irritably looking down on immoral people?
- 2) Do you have a song of joy toward God in your heart? (v9)
- 3) Are you freshly stirred to tell others about God's undeserved grace? (v10)

(Add the three scores and divide by three.)

Self-Audit Part 2: Verse 8 tells us that idols cut us off from the experience of God's grace. But the reverse is true: a revelation of the gospel of grace smashes our idols. Martin Luther taught us that 'Under every behavioural sin is the deeper sin of idolatry, and under every act of idolatry is a disbelief in the gospel.' On the next page we give you 6 examples of idols - and show that this idol leads to surface sin. We also show that each idol is fed by a lie that contradicts the gospel. A deeper belief in the gospel is the key to being free from idols. Now use the last chart to figure out 1) what are the 2 idols you're most drawn to 2) what sins result from your idols? 3) what is the disbelief that undergirds your idol? 4) what aspect of the gospel do you need to more deeply believe to smash that idol? Write down your answers.

In groups of three share the results of your self-audit, part 1 and 2.

### Pray together

- *Then in those groups pray together in the light of what you have learnt.*
- *Then there are two extra prayer pointers: 1) Pray that this Sunday God powerfully uses Tim Sutherland to teach our church about God's Future and to reach more and more not-yet-believers? 2) Pray that God opens up the best door for the South frontier we're soon starting.*

## Breaking free from idols

<b>The Idol</b>	<b>Approval of others / my reputation</b>	<b>Acceptance of men</b>
<b>A sin that results</b>	<b>Lying</b>	<b>Always needing a man</b>
<b>The disbelief that feeds the idol</b>	My sense of worth cannot be fully found in Jesus. I sing 'You satisfy my soul' but actually he can't. I need the approval of others for that. Their approval of me is my functional saviour.	I know I am righteous, accepted by God, accepted into his family and blah blah blah. But what good is that if no one wants to date me?!
<b>The aspect of the gospel that, if more deeply believed, would break the idol's power</b>	I choose to believe the phenomenal gospel truth that I am accepted by The King. I have received ultimate Cosmic Hospitality! What others think of me is a small thing compared to what God now thinks of me.	When tempted to go over and flirt or fish for male affirmation, or to get into a relationship that I shouldn't, I will remember Jesus: that he forfeited romantic relationships for me. I remind myself of the woman at the well who was still dissatisfied after 6 men on the trot. You, O Man, are not what gives me identity. You, O Man, cannot satisfy me. Only Jesus does.

<b>The Idol</b>	<b>Beauty</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
<b>A sin that results</b>	<b>Too conscious re my appearance</b>	<b>Workaholic</b>
<b>The disbelief that feeds the idol</b>	In this area there is actually no difference between me and someone who doesn't have the gospel, as both of us feel best about ourselves when we are skinny.	I need to achieve to be fulfilled and having a sense of meaning.
<b>The aspect of the gospel that, if more deeply believed, would break the idol's power</b>	The solution is not to 'go get a make-over and get me a man' (The Will), or 'It's ok cos I am loved by friends and family and I can think good thoughts about myself (Emotions). The issue is in my heart not my features. I am accepted by Jesus as I am. Also, it is amazing to remember that he was marred beyond recognition for me.	I am accepted by God and have nothing to prove. This pseudo-saviour will drive me into the ground and even if I succeed I will not be satisfied. And if I fail he will torment me as a failure.

<b>The Idol</b>	<b>Money</b>	<b>Personal safety</b>
<b>A sin that results</b>	<b>Stingy with money</b>	<b>Very anxious</b>

The disbelief that feeds the idol	Deep down I don't believe that God will provide for me, or that God is sufficient to satisfy me even in the absence of money.	Deep down I don't believe that God is either <i>able</i> to protect me, or <i>willing</i> to protect me. Either way, I don't really believe that he has my best at heart.
The aspect of the gospel that, if more deeply believed, would break the idol's power	God will provide. God satisfies.	God always works ultimately for my best and his glory. The gospel of grace proves this beyond doubt. Rms 8v32 says: <i>Would he who did not spare his own son for us, not graciously give us all things?</i>

Your top two idols		
A sin that results		
The disbelief that feeds the idol		
The aspect of the gospel that, if more deeply believed, would break the idol's power		