

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

Jonah... the miracles

(part I of the 'Jonah' series – 5/20/12)

Big Idea...

Often when we think of Jonah, we think of the miracle involving the large fish, but there's a more important one than that – God speaks. God initiates and communicates with people today because He wants to work in us and through us. God communicates to us in a variety of ways, whether that be through Jesus ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)), the Scripture ([Hebrews 4:12](#)), prayer ([1 Kings 19:11-12](#)), and community ([Hebrews 10:24](#)). The question we must all wrestle with is this: are listening to what God is saying to us?

Discussion Questions...

1. As we begin our journey through Jonah, one thing that will quickly derail your journey will be disbelief – specifically, disbelief that what the Bible records in Jonah actually took place. Do you believe Jonah to be a record of events that actually happened, or do you see Jonah as a 'fun story' that is meant to encourage and challenge its readers? If we disbelieve the miracles in Jonah, what does our 'disbelief' reveal to us about what we really think of God?
2. Do you believe that God would/wants to speak with you? Why or why not? How does your belief of God's initiation and speaking match up with [Hebrews 1:1-2](#) and [1 Timothy 3:16-17](#)?
3. Often times we don't hear people talking because we're not listening or we simply don't want to hear what they have to say. Is there anything in your life that hinders you from hearing from God? Are there things that you know you could do in order to better hear what God has to say to you?
4. If we believe in a God who is initiating and speaking to us, we ought to respond to him. What is God telling you about you, and how are you responding to what God is saying?
5. The aim of the Jonah series is that we'd have a new testimony of who God is – namely, that we'd be able to say with conviction and confidence 'This is our God.' What would your testimony be right now of who God is? How would you like to see your testimony grow in the coming weeks?

Announcements...

- **Serving** – there are many serving opportunities within GENESIS, but right now we have a particular need within GENESIS Kids. GENESIS Kids is looking for more volunteers to serve as teachers and teacher assistants. This is a great chance to make an eternal impact on young lives. If you'd be willing to serve in this way, please e-mail Kyla Davis at Kyla.Davis@genesisthejourney.com
- **Beginnings Brunch** – this Sunday, May 27th, GENESIS will host its monthly brunch in-between services for those who are new (or newer) to the GENESIS Community. If you know of someone who is new to the community, please invite them to attend the Beginnings Brunch with you. Any questions about the Beginnings Brunch please contact YiFeng You at YiFeng.You@genesisthejourney.com