

“The Reluctant Prophet” - Week 1

New Thru 30 Finish Up

Since we finished New Thru 30 last week, talk to your group and see if they would like to continue a specific reading plan together. There were several available on Sunday morning, and even more available online at www.youversion.com. Reading together as a group is not only great for accountability, but also for camaraderie.

Opening

This week we began a new series on the book of Jonah. For the next five weeks your Life Group will be exploring the pages of this eccentric text. Start your time by giving a short summary of Sunday’s message. If it helps, open it up to the group to fill in the blanks.

- ▶ **Read:** Jonah 1:1-3
- ▶ These three verses paint a very specific picture of Jonah. They portray him as a reluctant prophet who is afraid to confront the call God had placed on his life. In what ways can you relate to this picture of Jonah? (Be as specific as you want to be.)
- ▶ An understandable part of Jonah’s hesitancy in going to Nineveh was fear over what these Assyrians might do to him. How much of a factor has fear been in the times you have struggled to follow God’s call for your life?
- ▶ One of the main points of this week’s sermon was the fact that many Old Testament “giants” struggle with reluctance and

resistance when God called them. Take a look at these examples together.

Abraham

- ▶ **Read:** Genesis 12:1-20
- ▶ **Read:** Genesis 15:1-5
- ▶ **Read:** Genesis 17:1-21

Moses

- ▶ **Read:** Exodus 3:1-12
- ▶ **Read:** Exodus 4:18-26

Jeremiah

- ▶ **Read:** Jeremiah 20:1-18
- ▶ Do these verses change how you view these well-known Biblical characters? Why or why not?
- ▶ Why does reluctance so often make us feel unholy when so many people struggled with it throughout scripture?
- ▶ The main point from this week’s message was that **Jonah’s RELUCTANCE did NOT change his CALLING**, and therefore **your RELUCTANCE has NOT changed your CALLING**.
- ▶ What direction from God have you been reluctant to follow in your life? What are some of the practical steps you need to take to overcome this reluctance?

Accountability

Take your time to carefully approach the topic of accountability. Show the group how serious you are by continuing to share your struggles, and they will be more willing to join you.

- ▶ What struggles are the most prevalent in your life right now?
- ▶ How can your Life Group encourage you in your efforts to overcome these struggles?

Prayer

End your time together with a short time of prayer and support.