



Ahoy, mateys! This summer, our campers will set sail for a swashbuckling adventure on the high seas. Based on the Book of Jonah, our 2024 theme invites students to voyage to a place where rebellion turns to repentance, and selfishness gives way to surrender ... a place called Mutiny's End. It is our desire to share with every lost soul that the Great Captain has Himself paid the penalty for mankind's mutiny, and now He longs for each of us to discover the greatest treasure trove of all ... a relationship with Him. And to those who already know the Captain, we'll be extending the same call that Jonah received ... "GO!" Whether to Nineveh or Next Door, God commands us to preach His gospel to all creation. And it's high time we stopped running from Him and obeyed. After all, when we don't, things get kind of fishy!

So, that's what the theme's all about, ye lily-livered land-lubbers. Now get back to swabbing the deck.

Arg.

Kids' Camp Teaching Schedule

Monday Evening: "Mutiny's Beginnings" - Jonah 1:1-3

Tuesday Morning: "Mutiny's Outcome" - Jonah 1:4-17

Tuesday Evening: "Mutiny's End" - Jonah 2:1-10 - **Decision Night**

Wednesday Morning: "Surrender's Beginnings" - Jonah 3:1-3a

Wednesday Evening: "Surrender's Outcome" - Jonah 3:3b-10

Thursday Morning: **Missionary Presentation**

Thursday Evening: "Surrender's End?" - Jonah 4:1-6

Friday Morning: "Surrender's Example" - Jonah 4:7-11

Youth Camp Teaching Schedule

Monday Evening: "Mutiny's Beginnings" - Jonah 1:1-3

Tuesday Morning: "Mutiny's Outcome" - Jonah 1:4-17

Tuesday Evening: "Mutiny's End" - Jonah 2:1-10 - **Decision Night?**

Wednesday Morning: "Surrender's Beginnings" - Jonah 3:1-3a

Wednesday Evening: **Outdoor Chapel small-group break-out session**

Thursday Morning: **Missionary Presentation**

Thursday Evening: "Surrender's Outcome" - Jonah 3:3b-10 - **Decision Night?**

Friday Morning: "Surrender's End?" - Jonah 4:1-6

Friday Evening: **Worship Concert or Question & Answer Session**

Saturday Morning: "Surrender's Example" - Jonah 4:7-11

Outline of Teaching Sessions

I. Mutiny's Beginnings

Passage: Jonah 1:1-3

Main Points: The story of Jonah is historic fact, not a mere allegory. However, from these true events we can glean a wealth of wisdom concerning mankind's rebellion and God's gracious redemption.

According to 1:3, Jonah's personal rebellion arises from a small, erroneous view of God. He thinks that he can physically escape from God's presence. Thus, if he can only get far enough away from Israel (i.e. to Tarshish, at the edge of the known-world), then he will be free from the LORD's commands. But Jonah has a lot to learn about the God he serves. And in the days ahead, the LORD is graciously going to teach him.

What about you? How big is your view of God? How much is He involved in your life? How much does He care? It's easy to mutiny against a small, distant or impotent god. But when we start to realize just Who the LORD really is, our rebellion becomes a much more serious matter.

If the LORD speaks to you this week, will you flee from Him like Jonah? Or will you listen and obey?

God-Check: Far from being a weak, local deity like the idols of Jonah's day, the LORD is omnipresent.

II. Mutiny's Outcome

Passage: Jonah 1:4-17

Main Points: As the LORD hurls a storm in Jonah's path and makes it clear just who He is ("God of heaven who made the sea and dry land"), the stubborn prophet's rebellion only escalates. Rather than repent, he still seeks to escape God's call, first in sleep and then in death. Instead of offering up a simple prayer of surrender, he asks the sailors to cast him overboard and take his very life!

And so it goes in our own lives. A little disobedience leads to hardness of heart and further rebellion. Of course, when we persist in this mutiny, the stormy situations we face only escalate. And lest we think that our sin affects only us, let's not forget that Jonah's mutiny nearly cost the lives of everyone on that ship. Unless we turn back to God, our sin will ultimately destroy us and those around us.

God-Check: Sovereign over the strongest forces of nature, The LORD is omnipotent.

III. Mutiny's End

Passages: Jonah 2:1-10, Matthew 12:38-41

Main Points: When Jonah is brought to his lowest point ever, (literally, according to 2:6), He cries out to the LORD. And amazingly, God hears him, answers him, and saves him. The LORD wants to do the same thing in our lives today. It doesn't matter how far from His holy standard we've fallen. It doesn't matter if He Himself is the One who's been disciplining us. "Salvation is from the LORD," and all we have to do is believe that and receive it. (Acts 16:31)

But how can it be so easy? How can it be so free? Well, because of another Man who spent "three days and three nights" in the "depth of Sheol." Jesus the Christ, though He had committed no sin, similarly became an object of the Father's wrath and bore the penalty for our sin upon Himself. And because of His perfect sacrifice and resurrection, we can now experience forgiveness and restoration with God. But just as the forgiven Jonah was inspired to obey and fulfill his vows before the LORD (2:9), so our relationship with Christ motivates us to give of ourselves. Salvation is free. Discipleship costs our lives.

God Check: "Salvation is from the LORD." He hears us wherever we are, and saves.

IV. Surrender's Beginnings

Passages: Jonah 1:1, 3:1-3a

Main Points: In this session we'll be examining God's two calls to Jonah, both pre-fish and post-fish. On both occasions, the LORD gave Jonah three instructions, "Arise, go ... and proclaim..." He first asked Jonah to get up and to leave whatever comfortable state he was in. Then God told him to travel outside his home country to a land with strange customs and a foreign tongue. Finally, the LORD commanded Jonah to "cry against" or make a proclamation to the city of Nineveh. He expected His prophet to deliver a specific message to a particular audience.

"Get up, go, and proclaim." In many ways God's order to Jonah is the same assignment that He has given all of His children today. Get up out of your comfort zone. Get your eyes off yourself and your desires. Then, go! Whether it's to Nineveh or next door, go out and actively seek opportunities to share God's Word. When Jonah finally made the lengthy inland trek to Nineveh, he went for one reason and one reason only: to spread the word of God. So we too are called to GO through life with a singular mission in mind: to preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15) It's not something we do on the side when we have time. It's our top priority. Our greatest mission. And it's time we got to it.

God Check: Never giving-up on us when we fail Him, the LORD is a God of second chances. By His grace, His purposes for us will be accomplished.

V. Surrender's Outcome

Passage: Jonah 3:3b-10

Main Points: Nineveh's city-wide response to Jonah's preaching provides several lessons on repentance for us today. First off, true repentance arises from belief in God, His Word, and His standards. (3:5) It involves a surrender of our will and our pride (3:6), and a realization that our spiritual need for forgiveness is far more crucial than our physical needs and appetites. (3:7) Most importantly, repentance is a TURN, a radical change in direction. (3:8) It means giving up our precious sin, and turning in faith toward the Way, the Truth and the Life. And unlike the Ninevites, we don't simply have to hope that God will withdraw His judgment when we repent. (3:9) We know that Christ satisfied the Father's wrath for the sins of the entire world when He gave His life on the cross. (I John 2:2) The price for our mutiny has already been paid. It's time to turn the ship around and sail for our Admiral in Heaven.

God View: Although the LORD is a God of justice, He is also a God of compassion and mercy. (Jonah 4:2b) He meets genuine repentance with infinite forgiveness.

VI. Surrender's End?

Passage: Jonah 4:1-6

Main Points: Even after the mass repentance of Ninevah, Jonah is anything but joyful. Rather, he's downright furious at God's grace. His motives for fleeing are now revealed as the worst kind of prejudice and bigotry. He would rather see every single person he's met in the city damned than witness an entire society turn away from evil. The rebel who was so recently and mercifully delivered from God's anger, now desires to see that wrath consume well over 120,000 souls. How far from the heart of God this prophet has fallen.

What about us as Christians? As we fight in the so-called "culture wars" are we really concerned for the eternal destiny of our "opponents?" Do we care about the souls of the abortionists, the gay-rights activists, even the radical Islamists? Or have we decided that certain groups of sinners are too far gone, and therefore not worth the trouble? Have we forgotten that we too are in desperate need of God's grace every moment of our lives?

One of Jonah's greatest shortcomings as a follower of the LORD was that he placed more value on material things that brought him comfort (i.e. the shady plant) than on the souls of the lost around him. He'd probably be right at home in most American churches.

God View: Regardless of how His followers may act, the LORD is not a "respector of persons." (Acts 10:34-35) In His eyes, all men are equally lost ... and equally loved.

VII. Surrender's Example

Passages: Jonah 4:7-11

Main Points: Even as Jonah luxuriates in his material comforts, God uses a worm and a wind to teach him an object lesson in priorities. In doing so, the LORD reveals another wonderful divine attribute: His infinite compassion for every individual on the planet. In contrast to the prejudiced prophet, God is greatly concerned for the people of Nineveh, innocent and guilty alike. He even cares about their animals! Being a good Israelite, Jonah may have felt that his people and church had a monopoly on God's attention and concern. He learns here that the Creator's compassion knows no cultural, national, or even religious bounds.

Of course, the same is true today. The LORD still desires that none should perish, but that all should be saved. (II Peter 3:9) His perfect will is still that every person on earth would come to know the truth. (I Timothy 2:4) And his heart still breaks over every lost soul that rejects His Word. (Luke 15:3-7)

Can the same be said of us? If we have truly turned from our mutiny to follow Christ, then our desires and passions should be identical to His. Our priorities and mission should mirror our Lord's. Indeed, Jesus tells His disciples in John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Christ Himself is our example of obedience to the Father's will. (Philippians 2:5-13) His heart for the lost is our inspiration to reach

out to those around us. And His command to GO is our motivation to start today.

Will you run from the LORD's call to spread His gospel to the ends of the earth? Or will you obey, and in obeying, discover the treasure of Mutiny's End?

God-Check: Not just sovereign over my denomination or my country, the LORD reigns over and cares for the entire earth.