

Reflections on Jonah—by Faith Ho for Sunday School Primary

One of the things SLE Church values is bringing and teaching the gospel to the children amongst us. Sunday School is not seen as a childcare or child-minding service, but a ministry where, week after week, God's Word and the gospel are explained and discussions are had regarding how we can live in faith and repentance in response to what we hear. It doesn't sound very different from what goes on 'upstairs' (which is what the adult service is often referred to) - and that's because it isn't! Sunday School is really Kids Church, which is why we are moving towards renaming and rebranding Sunday School!

Amongst the primary aged children, we also have been going through the book of Jonah like you! The story of Jonah is often taught poorly in most children's bibles. The pagan sailors and their response and the whole of chapter 4, is often completely left out! It has been an exciting opportunity for the children to read the REAL story of Jonah for themselves in the REAL bible!

In Jonah 1, the kids learnt that *"God is in charge, so fear him! Don't just say you do!"*

In Jonah 2, they learnt that *"No one deserves God's kindness. But God shows mercy and saves them anyway by sending Jesus."*

Just like you have discussion questions at the end of the sermon, so the children have 'Chat Time' questions to reflect on and discuss after hearing God's Word. Here are some of the 'Chat Time' questions from last week. Perhaps you could think about what your answers might be!

1. Johnny goes to Sunday School and knows a lot about the Bible. He's a pretty good kid. When he sins, he often thinks they're pretty small sins compared to his brother who always sins and his friends at school, who doesn't even know about God. What would you say to Johnny?
2. God is very kind to not give us the punishment we deserve. But it's easy for us to be like Jonah and take his mercy for granted. Take the 'Jonah Test' to see if you are like him.

What do you usually do when you sin?

- You admit you have done something wrong straight away
- You admit you have done something wrong only when someone makes you
- You feel guilty straight away
- You don't usually feel very guilty/bad
- Tell God what you've done wrong straight away
- Confess your sins only on Sundays when you have to write a 'Sorry' prayer
- You only say sorry when you've done something really bad
- You don't usually say sorry when it's only a small sin
- You feel better when you compare yourself to someone worse.

Zoe (age 7) writes about what she's learnt about God in Jonah:

Something I've learnt about Jonah and ourselves is that we're all just like him. We are all as good as dead. We should all be punished, but God decides to show MERCY on us. I also learnt that MERCY means that you should be punished, but you don't get what you deserve. God is very good at showing MERCY to us as He is very loving.



15 March 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

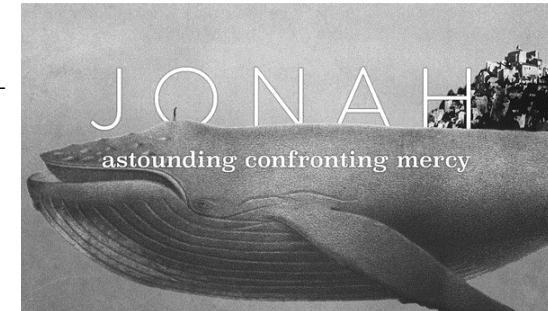
Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Jonah — Confronting Mercy

God's profound mercy and gracious pity upon Nineveh confronts Jonah's profound anger and self-interested pity, which displays his deep hypocrisy. Jonah, representing God's people, are confronted and rebuked by God for their lack of mercy for the lost, especially those they deem undeserving. Ultimately all people (Jonah/Jews and Pagans/Ninevites) are undeserving, yet God is shockingly merciful to all.

Next Week: Jonah 4



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing
O Great God
How Deep the Father's Love for Us
When I Survey

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading Jonah 4; Luke 15:11-32

Sermon By Pastor Steven Tran

Song of Response His Mercy is More

Stay Connected

- facebook.com/slechurch
- www.sle.church
- +61 490 760 152
- info@sle.church
- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out sle.church/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO

Mobile: +61 433 581 335

Email: ben.ho@sle.church

PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

Mobile: +61 411 621 159

Email: steven.tran@sle.church

Financial Update

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Last Week | \$7,646.15 |
| Weekly Required (adjusted) | \$6,334.00 |
| Shortfall 2020 | \$2,324.00 |

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER ALL THINGS IN HIS WORLD. Pray that God's people everywhere will hold on that truth even as we face trials and troubles of many kinds, having assurance and peace. Pray that those who don't know God may come to know and trust the Lord Jesus and gain meaning and know peace in this troubled world, and have hope for a perfect creation to come.

PRAY FOR GOD TO BRING A HALT TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, through natural or supernatural means. Pray for protection to those most vulnerable. Pray for leaders and rulers at all levels to have wisdom to do what is good for those they lead and serve. Pray for those who are suffering now, from the virus itself or from the wide-ranging effects this situation is causing. Pray for those who have lost loved ones.

PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO TRULY BE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD during crises like these, displaying love and grace, being wise and calm, speaking comfort and hope, and doing good to those around us. May these traits be displayed by our church family to each other and to the world not just in this COVID-19 crisis, but at all times.

THANK GOD FOR HIS ASTOUNDING MERCY TO ALL PEOPLE, from the 'worst' to the 'best', who are all in need of saving. Pray for the gospel to go out and for people to respond in faith in repentance.

Community News

CHURCH-WIDE TRAINING 15 MARCH 1:45PM-3:30PM NORTH HALL

Title: Striving Side-by-Side for the Gospel—Unity and partnership in SLE Church 2020 and Beyond.

Strongly encouraging ALL Leaders and those who are committed to the medium and long term future of this church to attend.

FIRST BLOOM SESSION OF THE YEAR – TITUS 2 TIME

21 March, Saturday. 1:30-4pm. North Hall

Register: <https://sle.church/groups/bloom/>

GRUNT EVENT—MEN'S MINISTRY

4 April, 8am for coffee/breakfast. 9am start North Hall

'The Man in the Home: what the Bible says about our roles as Fathers, Husbands, and Sons.'

EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISM 12 APRIL

Please speak to the pastors if interested.

SAVE THE DATE—

SPECIAL DAY CONFERENCE 9 MAY

A special Day Conference presented by The Gospel Coalition Australia, together with Queensland Theological College, will be held on Saturday 9 May. The link provides further details: <https://www.gtc.edu.au/event/facing-a-task-unfinished>

SLE Church will be organizing a church group registration and discount. SLE Church Code: FATU-CR-10910.

Serving

| | Today | Next Sunday |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Chair | Simeon | Bryan |
| Prayer | Winnie <i>Simeon</i> | Dan <i>Dan/Bryan</i> |
| Preach | Ps Steven | Ps Steven |
| Bible Read | Jansen <i>Dan Lowe</i> | Chi <i>Ps Ben</i> |
| M.Tea | Marie, Karilyn | Karilyn |
| Wash Up | Saturday YF | Friday YF |
| Welcome | Ken Steph Esther | Ken Steph Esther |
| | <i>Ben, Andrew</i> | <i>Sonja, Andrew</i> |
| | <i>Marilyn, Sean</i> | <i>Marilyn, Sean</i> |
| | <i>Jun Hao</i> | <i>Jun Hao</i> |
| Stewards | Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> | Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> |
| Piano | Dan Lowe | Joanna |
| Guitar | Shao Peng | Keith |
| Bass | Shaun | Liesl |
| Drums | Ivan | Ivan |
| Vocal | Amanda | Huiming |
| PA | Matt Chen <i>Daniel</i> | Matt Zhao <i>Stan, Caroline</i> |

4. Jonah—Confronting Mercy [Jonah 4]

Introduction

Recap of the story so far

1. A bad reaction to good news (1-4)
 - a. Disaster/evil (*ra'ah*)

b. I knew you were like this!

c. So let me die...

2. An object lesson (5-11)
 - a. The petulant prophet

b. The pitied plant

c. The confronting point

3. The God of astounding and confronting mercy (Luke 15:11-32)

God's people—reflecting God's character?