

Opening

What's the best thing you were ever chosen for? What made it special or exciting? Have you been selected to do something and turned down/refused to do it? What drove this decision?

Time in the Word

Read Jonah 2.

When might you have prayed a similar prayer? What were the circumstances?

Discussion

Do you believe everyone is called in some way? Why or why not?

Have you ever felt called?

How did it happen? How did you respond?

What is your calling? Are you following or fighting it?

Have you ever seen God work in a substantial/miraculous way? What storm or large fish has God used in your life to direct you?



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Our Purpose
why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

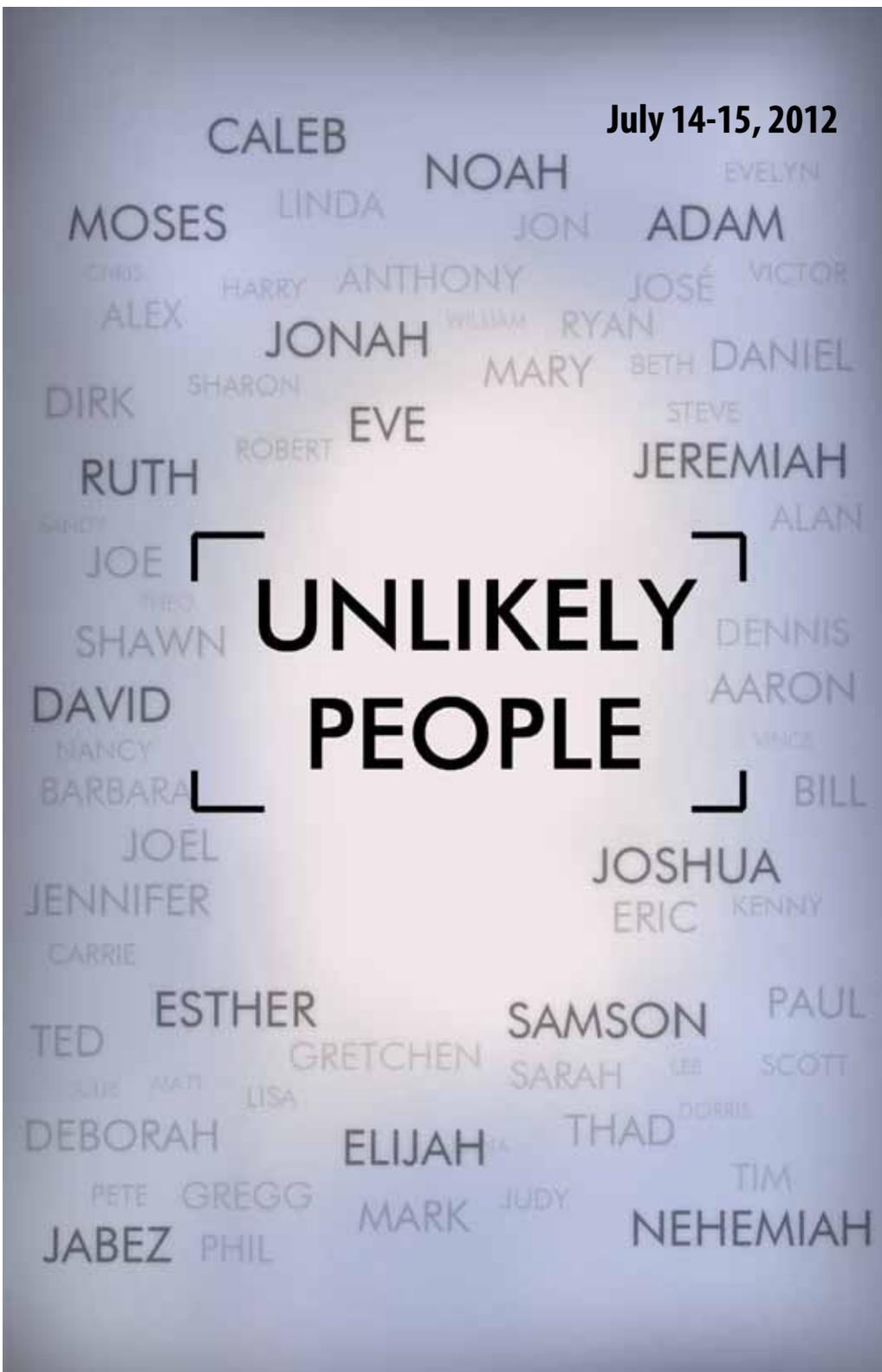
Our Core Values
how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

Contact Information

Church Address: 4040 Tully Road Modesto, CA 95356
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Friday - Sunday: Closed
Phone Number: 209.577.1604
Website: www.bigvalleygrace.org

July 14-15, 2012





Sermon Notes

Jonah

Jonah 1-4
Pastor Rick Countryman

At the LORD's command a large fish swallowed Jonah, and he was inside the fish for three days and nights. Jonah 1:17 (GN)

The Story of Jonah

Act 1: Jonah is given a job... _____ to Nineveh.

The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."
Jonah 1:1-2 (NLT)

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God."
2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

Act 2: Jonah decides not to do the job... He _____ from God.

But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD.
Jonah 1:3 (NLT)

But Jonah ran away from the Lord.
Jonah 1:3 (NIV)

If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.
Luke 14:26 (NLT)

Act 3: Jonah pays a price... His _____ brings consequences.

But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish.
Jonah 1:3 (NLT)

But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.
Jonah 1:4 (NLT)

Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.
Jonah 1:17 (NLT)

"Throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault."
Jonah 1:12 (NLT)

Act 4: Jonah realizes his sin...He _____ to God.

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish.
Jonah 2:1 (NLT)

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.
Psalm 139:7-8 (NLT)

If we say we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.
1 John 1:8-9 (NCV)

Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.
Jonah 2:10 (NLT)

Act 5: Jonah is restored...God gives him a _____.

Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you."
Jonah 3:1-2 (NLT)

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

Artwork on the screens provided by Deanna Medek. Deanna serves faithfully in the Big Valley Grace orchestra.



Memory Verses

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

What would your life be like if God had not given you a second chance?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Jonah 1. Where did God send Jonah? What was Jonah to do there?

Where did Jonah actually go?

In verses 5-6, why do you think Jonah was able to sleep through the storm?

In verse 7, why do you think the lot fell on Jonah?

What was amazing to you about the events recorded in verses 10-16? Why?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Jonah 2. Describe what Jonah is doing in the following verses:

1-

2-

4-

6-

7-

9-

What is God doing in the following verses?

2-

3-

6-

10-

What do you learn about Jonah and God by comparing Jonah 1:15 with 2:3?

What would have happened to Jonah if God had not provided the great fish?

List things for which you can thank God despite your difficult situation.

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Jonah 3. What message did God tell Jonah to proclaim?

What was the difference between the first and second messages?

Why do you think Jonah obeyed God this time?

How did the Ninevites respond to the message?

How did God respond to the Ninevites?

How quick are you to obey God's instructions?

What consequences have you suffered for disobedience?

What do you learn about God's character?

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Jonah 4. Why was Jonah angry?

How did God respond to his anger?

What circumstance did God orchestrate to teach Jonah?

What did Jonah reveal about his heart and priorities?

What does this incident show about God's character and priorities?

In what current situation is your true heart being revealed?

Personal Reflection & Application

How deserving are you to receive God's unconditional love and salvation?

What aspects of God's love speak to your heart?

How will you respond when God allows your life to take a difficult direction?

Reaching Out

Who do you feel is undeserving but needs to hear of the love of God?