



Embracing the Struggle

Sunday Morning, October 11, 2015

Review

"Struggles" are a part of everyday life. The difference for us as believers is that we have a hope greater than any problem we will ever have to deal with in this world. Our true challenge in life is not so much the struggle itself, but rather to always remember that in our struggles, Jesus has already "overcome the world" (John 16:33).

ICEBREAKER:

The ultimate struggle - you walk into an ice cream shop. You have 31 flavors before you. You can pick one flavor. What do you choose?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. As adults, we have lived long enough to experience a variety of problems and challenges in life. As an individual at this point in your life, how do you accept and perceive a struggle when it hits, and how do you typically work towards a resolution in dealing with it? How would you define and explain Jonah's attitude toward God when asked to go to Nineveh?
2. What do you really think God's initial expectation of Jonah was?
3. Are you quick to judge Jonah's bad attitude and disobedience? Why or Why not?
4. How does Jonah compare to others in the Bible that doubted God, argued with God, or perceivably worked to avoid what should be done based on what God initially asked or directed?
5. After all that Peter had experienced with Jesus (miracles, etc) why did he cave in and deny him three times?
6. If you had to pick, who do you tend to relate to more when confronted with a struggle, Jonah or Peter? Why?
7. What are some details of the example we get from Jesus in how he handled struggles (in the garden of Gethsemane or elsewhere in the Gospels)?
8. What is one of your "go to" scriptures that gives you comfort and strength during a struggle? What is it about this scripture that provides you with what you need?