

## CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

### Jonah 1: Running from God

- 1) When were you last in a boat and why?
- 2) Read **Jonah 1v1-16**. What did you personally find most helpful from Rich's message on Sunday?
- 3) On Sunday Rich spoke about God being Gracious and Compassionate. a) Read **Psalm 103v8-14**
  - i) What do these verses tell us God is like?
  - ii) What do these verses tell us about how God feels towards us?
  - iii) How does God's Grace and Compassion help us when we sin?
- iv) **Action:** Memorise part of this passage and think and pray into it during the week.
- b) Read **Psalm 95v8-11** which is referring to the Israelites refusal to trust God in the desert after escaping Egypt (**Exodus 17v1-7**).
  - i) What are the main ways we 'hear God's voice' today?
  - ii) What do you think it means for you to 'harden your heart' after hearing God's voice?
  - iii) In what ways/ areas of life are you personally resisting God at the moment? *Take some time to pray and ask God to show you.*
  - iv) Why are you reluctant/afraid to obey God in these ways?
- c) Read **Romans 12v1-2** and **Jeremiah 29v10-14**
  - a) How do these passages fit with the way God is described in **Psalm 103v8-14**?
  - b) How could these verses help you to obey God in areas you find hard?

# DIGGING DEEPER

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Read **Acts 5v1-11**

- a) What exactly did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong?
- b) Why do you think they did what they did?
- c) How is their sin and subsequent experiences similar to Jonah's? How is it different?
- d) Why do you think God killed them both?
- e) Do you think this was judgement or discipline? Why?
- f) In what ways are you acting like Ananais & Sapphira?
- g) How do you personally need to respond to this account?

## CONNECT IN PRAYER

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Please pray for a great turnout for our '**Taste of Alpha**' evening at Prezzo in 2 weeks on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. Please pray about who you can invite to come along to the meal with you and also for bookings from the 7,000 Alpha leaflets which have been distributed to Lewes over the past week.

Please pray for **Small Groups** as they are about to resume for the autumn term. Pray for your Small Group Leaders and those in your group. Please pray for the friendships within your group to strengthen and for fun and exciting evenings as we meet together each week.

## CONNECT WITH CHURCH LIFE

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'**A Taste of Alpha**' **Church Together** will be on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. There will be no small groups this week.

**Alpha Precinct:** We will be in the precinct on the **14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September** advertising the upcoming meal and course. Meeting there at 9.30am on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 10am on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The next **Alpha Meal** will be on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 7pm** at **Prezzo**. Please pray about who you will invite.

**Prayer Week** is from **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. The week starts with a **Whole Church Prayer Meeting** on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.15pm**. Please see your Prayer Week cards for more info on the other events during the week.

For anyone interested in **joining the Lesotho Team** next January/February there will be a meeting on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm to 9pm** in one of the upstairs rooms at the church building. More info from Al or Rob Ferns.

The next **Lewes Churches Men's Breakfast** is on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 8.15am** at the **White Hart Hotel**. The speaker was a miner during the 1980s strikes and had his life turned around by God. Tickets (£9/£7) can be reserved by emailing [mensbreakfast@southover.org.uk](mailto:mensbreakfast@southover.org.uk).

'**ORIGINS**' - **A Celebration of Creativity**. **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** 7pm in the Church building. Chrissie has gathered an excellent choir to present her new musical portrayal of events in the Garden of Eden. Alongside this we have an exhibition of art work, with contributions from Art Pad members and beyond. (Many works will also be available to buy). Drinks, cheese and nibbles are included in the entry price of £2 (on the door). This will be an informal, sociable evening... Bring your friends!