



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #1
Based on sermon: “Get Up and Call On Your God”
Preached Nov. 29, 2008

Thank you for being willing to establish a “neighborhood watch” center in your home. The purpose of Homes of H.O.P.E. is primarily to get God’s people together to pray and encourage one another in our spiritual journey home.

Study of the Word is important, but not the primary focus of these gatherings. There should be sharing of testimonies and struggles, fellowship and plenty of prayer. Try not to let the gathering become another Sabbath School class—just a meeting of minds and not hearts. Use the following as a means of opening discussion and targeting issues to pray about. God bless your gathering.

Introduction

Read Jonah through together as a group. It’s only four short chapters.

2. Discuss Jonah’s response to God’s call to preach in Ninevah. Why didn’t Jonah want this assignment?
3. Read Nahum 3:1-4, 19 to get an insight into Ninevah’s sins.
4. In chapter 1:4-5 a storm threatens the ship and everyone starts praying—except Jonah! Where is he and how is he a picture of the church today?
5. Does what the captain says to Jonah in verse 6 have any relevance to the church? Explain.
6. Look at Ezek. 22:30 and then compare with this quotation from Leonard Ravenhill: “At this grim hour, the world sleeps in the darkness, and the Church sleeps in the light.” What does Ravenhill mean and what are the implications of the Ezekiel text?
7. According to verse 7 who was responsible for the storm? Discuss the implications for us.
8. How would you answer the questions asked of Jonah in verse 8?
9. Note Vs. 10-14 – Compare and contrast the pagan sailor’s actions and attitudes with those of Jonah. What can we learn here?
10. Read Chapter 2:1 and discuss this statement: “Your sin is never too great and your predicament is never too difficult for God.” (See Psalm 139:7-12.)
11. Why did God send a fish at all? What did Jonah deserve? What did he expect?
12. Look at 2:4-5. Discuss the attitude of Jonah and the tone of his message. Did Jonah care about the Ninevites? What was the response?
13. Why wasn’t Jonah happy with his amazing success as an evangelist? (Chapt. 4:1)

14. Read 4:9-11 – Jonah wanted to die over a vine that was not his. He should have been more concerned about human beings who were created by God and were in danger of perishing. Jonah cared more about his vine than he did about God’s people. Do we do the same? What do we care about? What makes us angry? What gets our juices stirred? Are they the same things that God cares about? What makes God angry?

15. What is the worth of one soul to God?

16. Discuss this quotation: *“My love for God will match the love I show for those I love the least of all I know. At last Life’s great discovery I see—it’s when I walk with men God walks with me!”*--Adlai A. Esteb

17. What are the “take away” lessons you get from this story?

18. Pray together about what the Holy Spirit has revealed with your group. Consider taking the 30-day prayer vigil challenge mentioned in today’s Rewind. Make sure everyone has the prayer calendar.