























You can't bind the Father in the Name of Jesus.

Rebuking the devil won't help when God is the one at work.



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#### Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship.

But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. So the captain went down after him. "How can you sleep at a time like this?" he shouted. "Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives."



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#### Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

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."

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.



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#### Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. "Why has this awful storm come down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?"

Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."



#### **Key Passage:**

The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. "Oh, why did you do it?" they groaned. Jonah 1:1-10



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# Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

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



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### Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. 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 2:1-2



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#### Day 16

#### **Key Passage:**

Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?" Jonah 4:10-11



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There are some things we can NEVER escape even if we want to and no matter how hard we try.



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#### Day 16

2. You can't escape the lessons God is determined to teach you.

God arranges. Did you notice that throughout the story of Jonah?

God keeps arranging lessons until we finally master them.



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### Day 16

#### 1. You can't escape your own body.

Love it or hate it, you can't escape it.

It's the only vehicle you have to travel thru life in, so make peace with it.



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#### Day 16

You can often determine what lesson God is trying to teach you by looking at the emotions/reactions that are stirred in you...in place of the fruit God desires to see.

Hate/self hate = love unconditionally

sadness = joy in spite of circumstances

chaos = peace that passes understanding

irritation = patience

offended by rude people = kindness

short-tempered response = gentleness

self-indulgent = self-control



# 3. You can't escape the unfairness of life.

Life is unfair. But so is God.

If we will trust and obey him, He will give us an unfair advantage called favor.

It was unfair of God to ask Jonah to do things he didn't want to do.



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#### Day 16

It was equally unfair for God to promote Daniel above everyone else in Iraq.

Don't focus on fair. Focus on obedience.

Will we let unfair situations harden our hearts and make us angry, resentful and alone....or will we allow them to give us God's heart of compassion?



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### Day 16

# 4. You can't escape the role YOU are playing in course of events surrounding you.

Even those events beyond your direct control are often indirectly connected to your choices.

Jonah was the indirect cause of the storm. And the fish. And the withered vine. He was the indirect cause of all of that.



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#### Day 16

No, he didn't create the storm or send the fish or wither the vine. God arranged all of that, but why? Because of Jonah's actions and attitudes. His actions and attitudes set the wheels in motion.



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You are the indirect cause of almost everything in your life because of your choices and the choices of those you allowed on board the ship of your life.

Maybe those sailors should have asked a few more questions about Jonah *before* letting him sail with them!



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#### Day 16

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### Day 16

# 5. You can't escape your own attitude.

Jonah could have looked at the call of God upon his life as a great adventure and a challenge worth rising to; he chose not to.



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#### Day 16

Jonah and Daniel both ended up in Iraq, but Daniel's circumstances were far worse!



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Jonah was sent for a voluntary short visit to Iraq; Daniel was dragged away in chains against his will with no hope of escape. He was going to live and die in Iraq.



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### Day 16

Yet Daniel had a great attitude and as a result, made a great life for himself.

Daniel and Jonah are all the proof we need that it's not about our circumstances; it's about our attitude



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### Day 16

Jonah was just passing through with a message then going back to his life.



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#### Day 16

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Daniel and Jonah are all the proof we need that it's not about our circumstances; it's about our attitude



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#### 6.We can't escape the big decision.

We get to choose and we choose every hour of the day. We can choose to create a great life as Daniel did....or sit and be miserable feeling sorry for ourselves like Jonah.



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### Day 16

Jonah tried to escape and was miserable.

Daniel stepped up, lived his life to the fullest and was happy.



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### Day 16

We think escaping will make us happy, but it's a lie.

Joy is found in living, loving, serving. It's found in making the most of our lives and opportunities.



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#### Day 16

#### **Challenge Question:**

Is spending a day with you like spending a day with Daniel...or Jonah?



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#### **Key takeaway:**

Daniel took an awful situation and turned it into an amazing opportunity; Jonah took an amazing opportunity and turned it into an awful situation. Are you a Daniel...or a Jonah?

That's the Big Unescapable Decision.





