

## Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life – Belong Class begins October 1<sup>st</sup>; Read Scripture App; Ministry Partners needed for children’s ministry

## Learning

### *Knowing God*

#### Key Doctrines

- *God* – God seeks relationship with his creatures through his Word. God is the sustainer and sovereign director of his creation.
- *Sin* – All sin, in its essence, is a turning away from the face of God and a rejecting of relationship with him through disobeying his Word.
- *Salvation* – Sinful creatures are restored to relationship with God by His gracious action that we respond to through faith.

#### Key Observations

- *Read:* Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16-17; John 1:14-18; Psalm 95:1-5.

In these passages how do you see God speaking to his creatures in a way that creates and defines his relationship with them? *In both the Genesis and John passages we see that God creates us by his word and then defines our relationship to him*

- *through his word. In Genesis that relationship is defined through faithfulness to God’s intention for the whole creation (that we would fill it and subdue it). In John we see the relationship defined by God’s incarnate Word in Jesus, as one of “grace upon grace.”*
- How do we see God sustaining and directing his creation in the story of Jonah, and what is the goal of his sovereignty in this story? *God directs the storm and is clearly understood by Jonah to be the one who is in control of what happens on the land as well as the sea. But what is wonderful is that the goal that God is after is to bring Jonah back into obedience and the sailors to salvation.*
- *Read:* Genesis 3:8-11; Romans 1:18-23.
  - How do you see the doctrine of sin expressed in these passages? *What we see is sin is both the rejection of God’s presence and his Word. The human creature rejects God’s word because he wants something different, and because we want something different than what he has said, we turn from him and his presence.*
  - We have seen that God’s Word creates relationship, how do you see disobeying it destroy relationship in these passages? *When we turn our will away from God, we also turn from his presence. This rejection of God devastates our relationship with him, and as we see ultimately ruins our relationship with the rest of God’s creation (including each other and the world God has made).*

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- How do you see salvation by grace through faith at work in the first chapter of Jonah? *We see God using Jonah's disobedience to bring salvation to the sailors, who did not know the "name of the LORD." In other words the sailors didn't know God's grace and so could not have faith in it. But we see these sailors lives "saved" by grace (the calming of the storm), through faith (by trusting the word of God's prophet Jonah).*

## **Listening**

### *Responding to God*

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

## **Loving**

### *Obeying God*

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for \_\_\_\_\_ about:

## **Checking Out**

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Ephesians 1:3-6.