Pastor Dave Teixeira
Jonah 1:6-16
July 4, 2010

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

In the story of Jonah, God seems to be teaching us about security, where to find it really. First and foremost we know Jonah runs from God. He boards a ship and heads in the opposite direction of Nineveh—toward Tarshish. Now Tarshish is not just some random city in the opposite direction. It was a symbol of wealth and prosperity in the ancient world. The narrator of Jonah wants us to see how tempting it is to turn from God and embrace the comfort of financial earthly security. After "paying the fare" Jonah boards.

- How tempting is it to look to money and material things for security? (This can happen subtly.) On a scale of 1 to 10, how much of your security is based on finances? To put it another way, if I told you that there had been a mistake, and your entire savings and retirement funds were going to be taken by the IRS, how secure would you feel?

Storms...they are scary, but also extremely revealing. We not only see who we really are in the midst of storms, but also the deepest needs of our hearts. And deep down, we are all God-needers.

- Share a time when a "storm" has revealed more clearly to you (or someone you know) your/their need for God.

The author of Jonah is very strategic about the names of God he uses in this story. They build from generic titles to finally, in verse 9, "the LORD." This is more than a title—this is the personal name for the one true God, "YHWH."

- What do you think the message is here?

As this portion of the story ends, we learn that the only way for the sailors to be saved is through the sacrifice of Jonah.

- What is God teaching us about security here? Do you feel secure in and because of the sacrifice of Jesus for you?

- What percentage of your security do you truly think is found in Christ? How does this relate to what Jesus teaches about building your house on the Rock?

Finally, we've seen fear all through this story (Beginning, verse 5; Middle, verse 10; End, verse 16), but the focus of their fear shifts.

Read Psalm 103:11-18.

- What does it mean to "fear the LORD?" How does fearing the LORD give you confidence and security?