**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**July 8th 2018. People of God**

**Discussion notes: Jonah**

The big characters and stories of the Bible give us insight into the way Jesus deals with individuals as well as nations. Jonah gives insight into both. God is concerned with a whole nation, but he has much to teach the individual prophet about his character and ways.

1. What possible reasons account for Jonah running away from his commission (vv 1-3)? Have you ever run away from a call from God? What happened?
2. The story is full of twists and ironies. What does the story of the sailors tell us about how God feels about, and we should relate to people who don’t yet know Him?
3. In what ways could Jesus refer to the ‘sign of Jonah’ as a sign he will give to people of His time? (Matt 12:39)
4. In a part of the Bible (minor prophets) full of prophecies of judgement to the surrounding nations, this story is a profound antidote to a spirit of judgement. Why is Jonah so angry about the result of his preaching?
5. In what way does verse 4:2 answer our question in 1 above? Do we believe God is more or less merciful than we are?
6. Assyria was a very violent civilisation. How do you feel about very bad people being let off judgement? (3:9). Is it fair?
7. What do you think God’s heart is toward Jonah?

Like Jonah sometimes we get mad at God about the small things that impact us (4:9) rather than the big things (4:11). Do we need a change of perspective about anything in our life right now?