International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 8 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Jonah: The Runaway Missionary

Jonah 1:1–4:10

I Introduction

Evangelism and missions are two expressions of God's redemptive plan. Evangelism is the local proclamation of the gospel, sharing Christ within our immediate environment: family, workplace, and community. Missions is specialized evangelism that crosses cultural, linguistic, or geographic barriers, involving language translation, cultural adaptation, and the training of local leaders.

Both exist because God has a project: to restore humanity through His love. From creation, God desired fellowship with mankind, but sin entered when Adam and Eve rebelled, breaking fellowship and enslaving humanity to sin and Satan. God then initiated a rescue plan to restore His rule and His relationship with humanity.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Throughout history, God has always raised people to walk with Him: Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and the prophets. We are saved not because we are better than others but by grace; therefore we are included in God's project to save the lost as we have been saved. God is love, and His mission flows from His nature. Evangelism and missions are not church strategies but divine assignments.

II God's Mission Then and Now

I The Shift from Centripetal to Centrifugal

In the Old Testament, God chose Israel, and the Temple in Jerusalem was the centre of worship: a permanent house of sacrifice and a dwelling place for His name, to which the nations were drawn (1 Kings 11:36; 2 Chronicles 37:7; Deuteronomy 12:5–6, 11). In the New Testament the focus is outward. Jesus sends believers out to the nations. We are to go to people and witness through our lifestyle and by speaking the truth of God's love.

2 Jonah, the Reluctant Missionary

Jonah resisted God's missionary heart. His story reveals God's compassion for the lost, human reluctance toward difficult assignments, and God's persistence in fulfilling His mission. Jonah ran from God's mission, but God was persistent in saving Nineveh.

3 Our Role in God's Mission Today

God places us strategically as witnesses: in our families (children, cousins, relatives, domestic staff), workplaces, communities, and networks. We are active participants in God's ongoing project, given authority to correct, judge rightly, and hold one another accountable in love. Like the four lepers who shared the good news of their discovery (2 Kings 7), we are not to keep the gospel to ourselves.

III Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between evangelism and missions, and why does the distinction matter?
2. Where has God positioned you right now to share the gospel (family, office, relationships)?
3. In what ways can fear, guilt, or Satan's accusations stop believers from evangelizing? What is the way out?
4. What lessons from Jonah's resistance and God's compassion challenge your obedience today?

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

PSALM 103:19

✷ ACTION POINT

Share the gospel, through both lifestyle and conversation, with one family member and one colleague or acquaintance, and go on an intentional outreach this week.

Conclusion

Jonah's story reminds us that God's mission will move forward, no matter how uncomfortable it is. We are participants in a divine project rooted in love. Saved by grace, we are now sent by grace to preach salvation to the lost. We should not run like Jonah but share the good news like the lepers, stepping into God's mission because we are blessed to be a blessing.