

Youth Ministry Questions and Answers

1. Did the story of the prophet Jonah end sadly? If so why?

The account of Jonah did not end badly. Jonah was sent to Nineveh to announce that the city would be destroyed. The King and people of Nineveh repented of their sins. Jonah remained angry that they were not punished. He forgot God's mercy. God indicated to Jonah his error through the plant which grew to shade Jonah and then died. It was then clear that Jonah was more concerned about the plant than the people. Jonah would remember this revelation of God. That is not sad but a happy ending.

2. Why is the number 40 frequently used in the Bible?

The number forty indicates that in a particular event God is involved with his people or a person. For forty days God led the Israelites out of the bondage in Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land. In Christ, Lent is marked by forty days to indicate our deliverance in the new covenant established by him for our salvation. There are many other examples.

3. Were the animals on Noah's arc holy?

No. Animals do not have souls nor are they able to receive God's grace which leads to holiness. Animals are important to people but we need to remember that people are created in the image and likeness of God, not animals.

4. What language did Jesus speak?

Jesus spoke Aramaic. He also read from the scrolls of the Old Testament which were in Hebrew. He must have been fluent in that language as well.

5. How many different names are there for our God?

There are several names used in scripture including Father, I AM, Yahweh and as we know the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This last reference is at the end of Matthews Gospel. Each person of the Trinity has names or explanations concerning the person. Jesus is called the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lamb of God and other titles.