

Jonah Series Week 1

Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

If you had the chance to go on vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Read

Take turns reading Jonah 1:1-17. (Optional: Have your group read each passage in two different versions. Then, have them retell the story in their own words. Follow this up by reading the passage and correcting any omissions or mistakes. This solidifies the story in their minds and lets them realize they can use it in their own words when needed.)

Discuss

God asks His people to do things that stretch them beyond their comfort, preference, or understanding. When God called Jonah to preach to Nineveh, Jonah believed he had legitimate reasons to disobey. From his perspective, obedience felt unreasonable and costly.

- **What stands out to you about Jonah's initial reaction to God's command in v. 2?**
- **Does God's instructions sometimes feel unreasonable to you? Why?**
- **Can you share a time when you obeyed or resisted God's instruction? What was the result or maybe consequence?**
- **Who or what feels like "Nineveh" in your life right now?**

When Jonah fled, he found a boat headed the opposite direction of God's call. There is always a ship sailing away from obedience. Running from God often feels easier in the moment than surrendering to Him.

- **In your own spiritual life, which direction are you currently moving: toward God, away from God, stuck in the middle?**
- **Have you ever convinced yourself you could ignore or outrun God's prompting? Where did that lead?**
- **What does our tendency to run reveal about how we view God?**

God sent a storm not to destroy Jonah, but to get his attention. The storm caused by Jonah's disobedience did not just affect Jonah. The sailors suffered because of his choices. Sin is rarely isolated; it ripples outward.

- **How do the sailor's responses in v. 5-6 show the ripple effect of disobedience?**
- **Have you ever experienced the consequences of someone else's disobedience?**
- **Is there an area of hesitation or resistance in your life right now that may be impacting others?**

Application

God did not let Jonah outrun His grace. The storm provided redirection instead of destruction. You may be running, but God is still pursuing you.

- **What is the thing God has clearly called you to do that you are not doing? (serve, forgive, confess, surrender to the Lord, baptism, etc.)**
- **What storm might others be experiencing because of your disobedience? (tension, lack of depth, confusion, lack of peace, etc.)**
- **What would turning around look like this week?**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal where you are running and for the courage to obey, humility to surrender, and compassion to love the very people God sends you toward.