



# theridgechurch

**LIFEgroup Discussion Questions**  
**Jonah: Tarshish or Nineveh?**  
**August 31, 2014**

**Read:** Jonah 1.1-6

1. As we begin our study in Jonah, what do we usually think about when we think about this book? *G. Campbell Morgan says, Men have been looking so hard at the great fish that they have failed to see the great God.* During your gathering point out as you go throughout your discussion time, whether spontaneously or a more formal way what you see about God in the text. Maybe have someone keep a running list and share at the end.
2. What do we know about Nineveh and its residents? How far is it from where Jonah is? What does Nahum say about a century after Jonah (Nahum 3.1-3)? Who would we compare the people of Nineveh to today? What is close to present day Nineveh today? What is the condition there?
3. What was God's command to Jonah? What was Jonah to do (1.2; 3.4)? What was Jonah's response (1.3)? In the simplest sense, what do we call this? What does Jesus desire from us (John 14.15)? Is your obedience little more than human morality, or is it done in the fear of God? Do you obey God only out of a sense of duty, or because you love Him and fear Him?
4. Do you wholeheartedly acknowledge God's authority, both in His precepts and providence, in your life? Do you seek to live all of life under the authority of God's Word, believing what it says and seeking to apply its teachings to every area of your life? Or is there something in your life right now that your running in the opposite direction of God's will?
5. What could be at the heart of Jonah's disobedience? Fear? Apathy? The command is too difficult? What does the text reveal about his heart (4.2)? What did Jonah not want God to do for the people of Nineveh? How is his sin racism and hyper-nationalism? How is Jonah playing the superiority card? Do we struggle with any of this toward others? Different race? Those from other countries? Our boss? A neighbor?
6. What does the bible say about loving others (John 13.35; 1 John 4.7-8; Matthew 22.39; Matthew 5.43; Matthew 7.12; Micah 6.8)? What does my obedience in relationships look like currently? Is there somebody you are not treating like you would want to be treated right now?
7. Jonah is on the run from God's command to *Go*. He is asleep on the boat. Does Satan have him right where he wants? How does this translate to the condition of the church? What does Paul say to the church in Ephesians 5.14? Read Matthew 28.18-20. Is obedience to this command omitted from our life? If so, what does that mean (James 4.17)? How might we wake up like the sunbather on the deck watching the man drown?

**Pray (By Name and then Go Tell).**