

*us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?' He answered, 'I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.'"*

**JONAH 1:8-9 NIV**

*"This terrified them and they asked, 'What have you done?' (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)"*

**JONAH 1:10 NIV**

- **GOD'S MERCY IS GREATER THAN MY STUBBORNNESS**

*"The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, 'What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?' 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea,' he replied, 'and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.'"* **JONAH 1:11-12 NIV**

*"See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."* **HEBREWS 3:12-13 NIV**

*"Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the LORD, 'Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for You, LORD, have done as You pleased.' Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm."* **JONAH 1:13-15 NIV**

*"At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to Him."* **JONAH 1:16 NIV**

**next week:** CRYING OUT FOR THE RESCUE OF MERCY

# jonah

RUNNING FROM THE MISSION OF MERCY

03.08.20 | Mark Hadley

## how god responds when we're on the run

- **GOD'S MERCY IS GREATER THAN MY SELFISHNESS**

*"Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up."* **JONAH 1:4 NIV**

*"All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep."* **JONAH 1:5 NIV**

*"The captain went to him and said, 'How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe He will take notice of us so that we will not perish.'"*

**JONAH 1:6 NIV**

- **GOD'S MERCY IS GREATER THAN MY SECRETS**

*"Then the sailors said to each other, 'Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.' They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah."*

**JONAH 1:7 NIV**

*"But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out."* **NUMBERS 32:23 NLT**

*"So they asked him, 'Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for*



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

## **LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn the consequences of running from God's mission of mercy.**

### BELONG in God's family:

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**CHECK IN:** (optional) Let's briefly check in with one another. How are you doing?

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**ICEBREAKER:** Can you think of a time when you "ran from something?" Maybe it was a difficult relationship, or a conflict you avoided, or something you were afraid of... how did you run, and what did you learn from that experience?

### BECOME like Jesus:

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1. Sunday's message focused on Jonah running from the mission God presented to him. In what way can you relate to the message? How does it challenge you to change future behavior?
2. Read Jonah 1:4-16. What is significant about God sending Jonah over 500 miles away to say "Judgment is coming?" Would you have run away? What feelings or fears do you feel when God sends you out of your comfort zone?
3. Read Genesis 4:1-8. How were Cain's actions similar to Jonah's? In verse 6, Cain was angry and dejected due to not obeying God's commands. What can we learn from this example? In verse 7, we see the goodness and severity of God. What role can the Holy Spirit play in helping us obey rather than running?

4. In Ecclesiastes 7:13, the New Living Translation says, "notice the way God does things; then fall into line." With that approach, how might Jonah have avoided a lot of pain in his life and others? When you feel like running, how might this verse help you?
5. See Psalm 139:7-12. David, a man after God's own heart, had thoughts about escaping God. Why do you think that is? Is there something God is asking you to do that makes you want to run and escape? What makes this difficult for you?

### BLESS others:

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Going back to Jonah 1:5, how is it that Jonah was able to sleep through such a terrible storm? Today how is possible for us to sleep spiritually? What impact does it have on those around us when we choose to snooze rather than obey?

### BUILD God's Kingdom:

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Read Acts 20:22-24. The Apostle Paul heard God's words directing him toward a dangerous situation. What helps Paul move forward in obedience? How can we be more attentive to hearing God speak in our lives without wanting to run away or ignore Him?

### BELIEVE God and act in faith:

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What is your "Nineveh?" How can we as a group support you and encourage you to turn to God rather than run? What do you sense God is inviting you to do in response to this study?

**PRAYER:** What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?

**March 8, 2020**



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