



Running From Responsibility

Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the Bible who wanted a God of his own making. Jonah was a runner. He ran from responsibility and crashed into the mercy of God.

1. God's _____ of Man

Now the word of the **LORD** came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 1:1

God is seeking faithful men/women to reach the multitudes. (2 Chron 16:9)

2. _____

"Arise, go to **Nineveh**, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 1:2

With Jonah, God is using a different method to accomplish the same mission of reaching people who were far from Him. The method should always be up for being changed but our mission will always stay the same.

Jonah is appalled by the real God because he can't reconcile God's mercy and His justice. Therefore, Jonah has a mistrust of God's leadership.



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3. _____

But Jonah rose to **flee** to Tarshish **from the presence of the Lord**. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, **away from the presence of the Lord**. 1:3

It is impossible to run away from God or the opportunity to connect with the Body of Christ.

*Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, You're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the **far western horizon**, You'd find me in a minute – you're already there waiting! Psalm 139:7 MSG*

Tarshish: a Phoenician city in southern Spain, just west of Gibraltar. (AKA: far western horizon!) Tyre (north of Israel's coast) depended on the large merchant ships of Tarshish for shipments of silver, iron, tin and lead (Isa. 23:1-14; Ezekiel. 27:12, 25). It was known as the westernmost place in the Mediterranean world (Ps. 72:10; Isa 60:9; 66:19; Ezekiel. 38:13).

Jonah believed in God but didn't trust God with his circumstance.

We often doubt that God is good or that God is committed to our best so we decide that we'll do what feels right vs what IS right.

Two ways to flee from God: (Luke 15:11-32)

- A. Following God's Word
- B. Ignoring it

“Neither son trusted his father's love, both were trying to find ways of escaping his control. One did it by obeying all the father's rules, the other by disobeying them all.” Keller, 19

You can run but eventually you will crash into the wall of God's mercy.

Become a Christ Follower Today

- Admit: Sin
- Believe: Cross
- Choose: To follow Christ

Answers: Pursuit, Mistrust, Mistake
Resource: The Prodigal Prophet by Timothy Keller

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Community Group Discussion Questions

Jonah Week 1

Before meeting with your group, read through the book of Jonah as a whole. This allows for a “big picture” view of the narrative. It can be read in less than 10 minutes!

Read Jonah 1:1-3

Discuss the ways individuals respond to a challenging task.

What or who is the Nineveh in your life? What do you need to change so you can begin to head towards your Nineveh?

Tarshish is the escape, the delusion of the greener grass so to speak. Tarshish is a lie. What’s your Tarshish? How do you escape?

What do you view differently as a adult about the narrative of Jonah as compared to when you heard and learned about it as a child?

Read Luke 15:11-32

Discuss the similarities and differences of Jonah and the prodigal son.

Who’s choices do you relate to, Jonah or the prodigal, and how so?

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What are you ready to surrender control of and instead trust it to God?

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