

Message Notes | Jonah

Part 1: Runaway

Jonah 1:1-16

→ at some point you stop the chase

#1 Jonah was a _____ prophet.

→ Nineveh's wickedness - **vs. 1-2**

→ opposite direction - **vs. 3-4**

#2 Running away did not _____ Jonah.

→ "what have you done?" - **vs. 4-10**

#3 Running away from God brought _____ other people's life.

→ "I know that it is my fault" - **vs. 11-16**

→ lessons from Jonah:

#4 God used a storm not to _____ Jonah, but to _____ Jonah.

You have not _____ God's grace.

Group Questions | Jonah

Part 1: Runaway

Jonah 1:1-16

1. Before we get into the questions, what are one or two things that stuck out to you from the study of Jonah chapter 1?
2. Jesus referred to the account of Jonah as an actual historical event that happened (Matthew 12:38-41). Does a person miss out on anything if they view Jonah's account as an allegorical (or fictional) story?
3. **Read Jonah 1:1-3.** Why do you think Jonah decided to travel far away rather than just keep living where he was?
4. Jonah refused to go to Nineveh because he did not consider them worthy of God's grace. Who would your "Ninevites" be?
5. **Read Jonah 1:4-6.** What do you make of Jonah's ability to sleep during the storm?
6. **Read Jonah 1:7-10.** Jonah's decision to run away brought others into harm's way. When it comes to your life, how can a troubled relationship with God bring troubles into human relationships?
7. God did not send a storm to get back at Jonah, but rather to get Jonah back. Therefore, the storm was an act of grace. As you look back at your life, do you see any storms that God used to bring you closer to him? If so, share.
8. No matter what a person is running from or running to, they have not out-run God's grace. Who are some people in your life that seem to be running away from God at the moment? Share what's appropriate and pray for them as a group.

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→ at some point you stop the chase

#1 Jonah was a runaway prophet.

→ Nineveh's wickedness - **vs. 1-2**

→ opposite direction - **vs. 3-4**

#2 Running away did not disqualify Jonah.

→ "what have you done?" - **vs. 4-10**

#3 Running away from God brought ruin into other people's life.

→ "I know that it is my fault" - **vs. 11-16**

→ lessons from Jonah:

#4 God used a storm not to get back at Jonah, but to bring back Jonah.

You have not outrun God's grace.

Bible Reading for Today

Jonah 1:1-3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

⁴ Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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."

⁷ 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. ⁸ So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

⁹ He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰ 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.)

¹¹ 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?"

¹² "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."

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ 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." ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.