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Jonah Runs; God Pursues

March 24, 2019

What all people have in common isn't their virtue, but their need for rescue.

Move toward, not away from, being an intentional influencer among all of the people in your relational world

1. God loves you as well as those you don't love

Jonah 1:1-3

Everyone knows you don't need a boat to get to Albuquerque.

When you run from God's calling on your life, God pursues you with the goal of recovering your heart and your purpose.

2. God won't make it easy for you when you run

Jonah 1:4-6

As Jesus came to seek and save lost people, Jonah runs and hides from them.

Jonah 1:7-10

3. God is at work around us even when we're running from Him

Jonah 1:11-12

"The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference."

Jonah 1:13-16

Now What?

Move toward, not away from, being an intentional influencer among all of the people in your relational world



Week of March 24, 2019

Home Groups are meeting in your area. Apply on our website – we would love to have you.



Share It

Get to know one another

What are your early memories of the story of Jonah?



Study the Word

Learning to know God from the Bible

Our focus is on God's love for the whole world and His call to be ambassadors.

Read Jonah 1:1-16 about God's call and Jonah's response.

To whom was Jonah called to preach and why? (v. 2) (Note: To learn more about Nineveh, go to <https://www.bible-history.com/biblestudy/nineveh.html>.)

What was Jonah's response? (v. 3) Why? (See 4:1-2 and 2 Kings 18:9-11)

List the ways that God actively pursued Jonah. (v. 4-15)

In what ways were the captain and sailors compassionate toward Jonah? How were they affected when learning of "the LORD?"

What do we learn about the character of God in Exodus 34:5-7? How was Jonah acting the opposite?

What is our spiritual status when God reaches out to us? (Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-6)



Discuss Together

Discuss how God can change our lives

If you are a follower of Jesus, what efforts did God do to reach you? How is He still compassionate?

What fuels your desire to be a part of God's rescue of the world?

The sailor's question is challenging: "What have you done?" (v. 10) Jonah was indifferent and uncompassionate. Are we sometimes like this? What does it look like to keep quiet about the Good News?



Time to Pray

Praying with and for one another helps us trust in God together. Please pray . . .

- For us to grow in God's compassion
- For suffering and persecuted believers
- For people you want to invite to Easter services



Apply It This Week

A challenge to apply what we are learning

Ask God to give you opportunity to share His compassion and enter in.