

Running Away From God

Jonah 1

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you resisted doing something you knew God wanted you to do?

BIG IDEA: The Hero of Jonah 1 is God – who uses a disobedient prophet, a storm, and a begrudging confession of faith to reveal His love and Lordship to a crew of pagan sailors in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea (who didn't even see it coming!). God's purpose of extending His Kingdom rule to the whole world will not be thwarted!

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read 2 Kings 14:25. What was the nature of Jonah's earlier prophetic assignment from God? How might this assignment have made the call to go to Nineveh challenging for Jonah?
- 2) Read Jonah 1:1-4. What does God do in response to Jonah trying to run away from the call to Nineveh? What does this say about God? Where have you experienced God becoming the "Hound of Heaven" in your own life?
- 3) Read Jonah 1:5-9. Do a compare/contrast between Jonah and the sailors with regard to their understanding of God and spiritual things.
- 4) What is the relationship between orthodoxy (right beliefs) and orthopraxy (right actions) for Jonah? Pastor Joshua talked about the L.I.A.R. Syndrome (Low Information/Action Ratio). Where do you see this syndrome in the church? Where do you see it in your own life?
- 5) Read Jonah 1:10-16. It only takes a 1-sentence (begrudging) confession of faith from Jonah (v9) to ultimately get these pagan sailors on the track to worshipping the Lord (v16). What does this say about how God was preparing their hearts for this message?
- 6) We're not even to Nineveh by the end of Jonah 1 – and yet God is revealing Himself to pagan Gentiles in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. What does this say about God?
- 7) Who are the pre-Christians in your sphere of influence – whom God might already be preparing to respond to Him – if just a little bit of love and spiritual truth were put before them?
- 8) Spend some time praying for these people to whom God wants to extend His love and Lordship.