

# JONAH



## MAN ON THE RUN

### JONAH 1

## Icebreaker

**When you were growing up, did you ever break the rules and then try to cover up the evidence? Did you get away with it, or did you get caught?**

**Why?** (For example, I broke a plate glass window and didn't tell my parents. Guess what? They found out!)

## Context

Jonah was a prophet who delivered a message from God to a bad king of Israel, and that message was a prediction of what would happen to the nation. Jonah's prediction came to fruition. This book is about a second message given to Jonah, and his response to God's call.

What is amazing about this book is the incredible display of God's grace. We see God display grace to Jonah when he runs from God. Also, we see God display grace to pagans who recognize God at work around them.

## Passage

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 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.

4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people



are you?" 9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

## Sermon Notes

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_ to Jonah (v. 1-2)
2. Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3-16)
3. God's \_\_\_\_\_ *For Our Sin* (v. 17)

### Key lessons from Jonah 1:

1. To reject God's \_\_\_\_\_, is to reject God Himself.  
(v. 1-2)
2. God sees our sin and takes it \_\_\_\_\_.  
(v. 3-16)
3. God is \_\_\_\_\_ toward sinners.  
(v. 17)



## Post Sermon Questions

If your group is meeting after hearing the sermon, here are some basic questions to discuss among the group.

1. What did you like about the sermon, or what was one of the more important things you heard in the sermon?
2. What was something in the sermon that caused you to have questions?
3. What did we learn about Jesus in this passage?
4. What do we learn about man (or human nature) in this passage?
5. Are there any sins we need to confess because of this passage?
6. Are there any actions we should take in light of this passage?

## Discuss

1. Read 2 Kings 14:23-27. Why is it significant that Jonah's prophecy concerning Israel is fulfilled? What does it tell us about Jonah that he had prophesied to the king of Israel before being called to go to Nineveh?
2. Who are the people, or groups, who we easily think of as "enemies"? Are there people or groups who think that the church sees them as "enemies"?
3. Read Exodus 3:1-4, 10-12, Isaiah 6:1-13 (especially verse 5 & 8-13), and Jeremiah 1:4-19 (especially 6-8 & 13-19). How do prophets respond to being called to do something hard?
4. How are we like Jonah and try to flee from God in our lives?
5. What was the sailor's attitude toward one another during the storm? (vs. 5, 13-16)
6. What was Jonah's attitude toward others during the storm? (5b-6, 10)
7. We see the pagans act better than God's prophet Jonah. Why do Christians sometimes act less like Jesus than non-Christians?
8. How does the sailors' view of God change during the storm? What is surprising about the way the sailors come to know and fear the Lord?
9. What attributes or character traits of God do we see in this chapter?

## Next Steps

Does your life (the decisions you make day-to-day) match what you claim to believe? Consider what is one thing you can do this week to start having what you claim to believe be lived out in your daily activities.

