

Jonah: The Salvation of God | Running from God – Jonah 1

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of May 21st, 2023

OVERVIEW

Jonah deliberately evades God's instruction to go to Nineveh by fleeing to Tarshish. Jonah's flight reflects our own tendency to flee from God's call upon our lives.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: Have you ever been caught in a terrible storm while traveling? **Or** If you had a chance to travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Activity: Play an outdoor activity like tag or hide-and-seek.

PRAYER

Pray in groups of 3-4: Pray for God to clarify His will and purpose for our life.

Pray in a large group: Pray for faith that does not flee, but actively seeks the will and purpose of God.

BIBLE: READ JONAH 1

1. How many times does the phrase "run" or "flee" appear in the passage?
2. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a ruthless and morally corrupt empire that threatened Israel. When Jonah received God's command to preach in Nineveh, how did he respond? Why did he respond in this way?
3. How does Jonah's response compare to how other prophets responded (1 Kings 17:1-6, Jeremiah 1:4-10)?
4. What do you suppose Jonah was thinking about as he got on the ship and fled to Tarshish?
5. Is it possible to run/hide from God? (See Psalm 139:7-12)
6. What happens when Jonah goes out to sea on the ship? How does God "intervene" in the narrative?
7. What does this story reveal about the call of God, as well as human fear and faith?
8. Put yourself in Jonah's shoes. How would you have responded if God told you to go and preach judgement to a dangerous and wicked city?

APPLICATION

1. When it comes to listening to God and His Word, where would you rank yourself on a scale of 1 ("I can't hear you") to 10 (I'm all ears)? What are some ways you can be more "attentive" and "receptive" to God's call upon your life?
2. What are some things people may say to prevent them from doing something God is calling them to do? (ex. "I'm comfortable where I am," "I'm not qualified") What are some barriers in your heart that is preventing you from fulfilling God's will and purpose for your life? What is something you think God may be asking you to do?

