

RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD

Jonah 1-4

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INTRO:

1. The **obvious** part of Jonah's story
2. The **obscure** part of Jonah's story

A. RUNNING FROM GOD

1. A **direct** command from God (Jonah 1:1-2)
2. A **diversion** from the command of God (Jonah 1:3)

B. RUNNING TO GOD

1. The **repercussion** of our decision (Jonah 1:4)
2. The **realignment** of our direction (Jonah 1:17, 2:1-10)

C. RUNNING WITH GOD

1. Requires **surrender** (Jonah 3:1-3)
2. Requires **submission** (Jonah 3:4-10)

CONCLUSION

Tabletalk Questions

Overview

The last session highlighted the life of Elisha the prophet. The prophets were messengers who relayed messages from God. They called the nation of Israel and its mostly evil kings to repentance. In 2 Kings 13, we see the death of Elisha. In the very next chapter, 2 Kings 14, we get a glimpse of a prophet named Jonah and his prophecy regarding Israel recovering certain territories. This session explores the book named after that same Jonah. In it, God asks Jonah to declare the destruction of Nineveh. But after a change in the hearts of the people of Nineveh in response to God's message, He chose to forgive them and showed them His great compassion and mercy. But Jonah had other ideas.

1. Describe a time when you felt prompted to help, reach out to, or serve another person. Did you obey that prompting? Why or why not? What was the result?

2. Read **Jonah 1:1-3**

* Today, no one runs to a ship and sails away from what God has for them, but we have our own ways of distancing ourselves from the things God has put on our hearts to do. What are some common "ships" people run to?

3. Read **Jonah 1:4-12, 15**

* Describe a time when you either helped someone else realize the reason for chaos in their life or when someone else had to help you see it on your own.

4. Read **Jonah 1:17; 2:1, 10; 3:1-3**

* Have you had a "belly-of-the-fish" moment—a time when there was no alternative but to look squarely at yourself and take ownership of what you'd done? Explain.

* What is the most memorable or significant second chance you've been given?

5. Read **Jonah 3:4-10**

- * Think about the people in your life who you think will never be ready to receive Jesus as Lord. Without naming anyone, talk about what keeps you from sharing Jesus with them.
- * How can you overcome these obstacles?

6. Read **Jonah 4:2-11**

- * What really makes you angry? Is it traffic? Slow service at a restaurant? Talk about what drives you bonkers.
- * How can you use the things that make you angry as a gauge to determine your level of compassion?