

Discussion Questions

Series: Going Jonah

The Man Who Ran

Jonah 1: 1-6

Introduction

Sometimes there is a little Jonah in all of us. We try to run from God. We try to hide from God. We try to run a race without God's provision. The consequences of running can soon outpace your decision to run. But you were created on purpose. God often works behind the scenes to prepare people's hearts to hear and receive the message of forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

Discuss

1. Many studies in our country suggest that younger generations are no longer interested in church and are leaving? From your perspective why do you believe that to be true?
2. Read Jonah 1:1-6. God tells Jonah to go to Nineveh, a great city that was acting wicked. What does it say about God that he does not give up on Nineveh? How does that inform our expectations of God when wicked things happen in our world today?
3. When people run, they go to the strangest, most dangerous places. Have you ever made a decision or entered a season of life that now looking back you agree it's because you were trying to run from God by doing things your own way?
4. Turning our backs on God is turning our back on the only source of unconditional love in this world. Discuss if that is true or false?
5. What happens when we try to squeeze unconditional love out of people who cannot provide it consistently?
6. Apart from God, where do people find meaning and purpose?
7. In this passage of Jonah, who were the people who suffered due to Jonah's running? Those who are closest to runners often get hurt as a result. Have you seen this happen in the lives of people that you know?

Keeping in Step

God will allow the consequences from running to occur, not to get you back but to win you back. Is there an area of your life you are 'protecting' from God? Can you turn back and allow God into the midst of that area of life? What can your group pray for concerning this topic?