

Discussion Questions

Series: Going Jonah

God's Perspective

Jonah 2:1-3:3

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. IF you could be God for one day, what is the first thing you would do?
2. Read Jonah 2:1-2; what area of your life are you experiencing the most 'distress'? What does it look like to include God in this area of your life?
3. One thing Jonah learned about God's perspective toward the runner is that God listens to the prayer of the runner. Why does knowing this help a 'runner'?
4. What are some reasons people give for why they are not 'religious'? How might these reasons be evidence of a runner?
5. The second thing Jonah learned (vs 3-5) about God's perspective toward a runner is that God is oftentimes in the midst of the circumstances that bring us to the end of ourselves. What does it mean to you to come to the 'end of self'?
6. Do you recall a time in your life that you were dealing with distress and now looking back you see God was in the midst of it?
7. The third thing that Jonah learned about God's perspective is God is a God of second chances (vs 10). Why is this difficult for some to believe?
8. In Chapter 3 vs 1-3, God uses Jonah's rebellion for the sake of a larger purpose. Was Jonah motivated by fear or gratitude.

Keeping in Step

You cannot run outside the boundaries of God's grace and God's mercy. God will allow the consequences from running to occur, not to get you back but to win you back. The good news is that God can restore most anything, but your time wasted. How can you shift your focus back to God this week?