



South Sub Church

April 12, 2026

## God's Relentless Pursuit

### Jonah 1 (NLT) [verses 1-3 below]

The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." <sup>3</sup> But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

### Sermon Summary:

What if running from God doesn't disqualify you—but actually reveals how far His mercy will go? In this four-week journey through the book of Jonah, we'll discover a God who relentlessly pursues us in our rebellion, meets us in our lowest moments, extends grace to the people we least expect, and challenges the parts of our hearts that resist His compassion. Whether you feel far from God, frustrated with Him, or unsure how you fit into His mission, this series will invite you to see that you can run—but you can't escape His mercy.

### Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. Have you ever tried to avoid doing something you knew you *should* do? What happened?
2. What's the longest or most memorable trip you've ever taken?
3. How do you usually respond when plans suddenly go wrong?
4. Have you ever experienced a moment where you felt "out of control"?
5. If you could instantly travel anywhere, where would you go—and why?

### Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. According to verse 1–2, what command does the Lord give Jonah?
2. In verse 3, where does Jonah go instead, and what is his intention?
3. What does the Lord send in verse 4, and what happens to the ship?
4. How do the sailors respond to the storm in verse 5?
5. Where is Jonah during the storm, and what is he doing (v. 5)?

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6. What does the captain say to Jonah in verse 6?
7. How do the sailors determine who is responsible for the storm (v. 7)?
8. What information does Jonah give about himself in verse 9?
9. What solution does Jonah offer in verse 12?
10. What happens after Jonah is thrown into the sea (v. 15–16)?

#### Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. Why do you think Jonah chose to flee from the Lord's command (v. 3)?
2. Why might Jonah have been able to sleep during such a violent storm (v. 5)?
3. What is significant about the sailors turning to prayer, even though they are not Israelites (v. 5–6)?
4. Why does Jonah suggest being thrown into the sea instead of repenting and returning (v. 12)?
5. What does the sailors' response to God after the storm (v. 16) teach us about God's power and witness?

#### Application questions (life response):

1. Is there anything in your life right now that you might be "running from" instead of obeying God?
2. How do you typically respond when God calls you to do something uncomfortable?
3. What "storms" in your life might actually be opportunities for you to turn back to God?
4. How does Jonah's disobedience affect others—and how might your choices impact people around you?
5. What steps can you take this week to be more responsive to God's direction?