

The Gospel According to Jonah (1 of 4)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 7th 2023



Sermon Series: The Gospel According to Jonah

Sermon Title: You Can Run But You Can't Hide

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1-16; Matthew 12:38-41

Sermon Focus: God calls Jonah to go to the great city of Nineveh and preach judgment against it because the people there were wicked and headed for destruction. But instead of obeying God, Jonah runs in the opposite direction! And then all kinds of unexpected things happen. In the first message of our series, Pastor David sets the context of the story and invites us to see why running from God is a *really* bad idea.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David begins his message by sharing his own experience with attempting to run from God in rebellion. No matter where he went and how dark things became in his life, he remembered hearing the voice of the Lord. How did God speak to you about his experiences? Can you relate to his story in any way? How has God surprised you by showing up in unexpected ways and places?
2. Pastor David shared his perspective that the book of Jonah is a work of historical fiction in the form of an ancient comedy or satire. He said that your view of Jonah should not be a test of orthodoxy or a “high view” of Scripture. What do you think? Did Pastor David’s words regarding Jonah help you or challenge you?
3. Read Jonah 1:1-16 together. Can you see the humor and irony in this story? What do you find interesting or challenging about this first chapter of the book? Is there anything that Pastor David shared about this chapter that you hadn’t noticed before? How is God speaking to you through this passage?
4. We were given three theological points at the end of this first message. Talk about each one and the implications they have on your faith journey. How do each of these connect or apply to your own life right now?
 - God is sovereign over all creation and he cares for everyone, including our enemies
 - Lost sailors (sinners) are capable of showing more faith than some prophets (saints)
 - You may run from God and rebel against his will and purposes, but he will not let you go
5. While you may not be “running from God” like a teenager in rebellion or a prophet trying to escape God’s calling, are there other *smaller* ways that you are not surrendering to God’s will and purpose for your life? Is there some way God is calling you to follow him more closely and deepen your trust in him?
6. Name a specific way that God is inviting you to join his “mission of mercy” by sharing your faith or serving a family member, friend, co-worker, enemy, etc.
7. Based on the responses to the previous questions, close your time together by praying for each other. Try this: Have each person sit in a chair in the center of your group. Lay hands on them and have one or two people say a prayer for them. Then go to the next person, until everyone has been prayed over.