



DISCUSSION NOTES

WEEK 1 THE REBEL PROPHET JONAH 1:1-3

JONAH

INTRODUCTION

The hero of the story of this great book is the living God. Jonah, on the other hand, is depicted as a rebel, running from God. We can identify with Jonah as we too often run from God and experience death, not life. However, God relentlessly and lovingly pursues Jonah and brings him to the end of himself. Similarly, God seeks to bring us to an end of ourselves and (through his grace) offers himself to us.

The book of Jonah ultimately displays the good news (gospel). While Jonah ran from God, God ran after Jonah in order to rescue him and through him (Jonah) rescue others.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

- Compare Jonah 1:2 with 4:11. How is the underlying message of God's impending judgement of Nineveh's evil (Jonah 1:2b) really motivated by His love?
- What is Jonah's reaction to God's command? (Jonah 1:3)
- Why do you think Jonah attempted to flee from the "presence of the Lord"? (Hint: read Jonah 4:1-2)

APPLICATION

- In which ways might you be like Jonah, attempting to run from the presence of God and His will/mission for your life?
- Among other things, it would seem as if Jonah's motivation for fleeing from God was his prejudice/hatred toward the Assyrians who were the oppressive enemies of the people of Israel. Are there people in your life who you, like Jonah, would be angry if God had shown favor and love towards?

PRAYER

- Ask God to reshape your heart to love those whom he loves even though they may have harmed you.
- Ask God to use you as his instrument to show (by works) & share (by words) his message of grace, to those who are blinded by their sin (who don't know their right hand from their left - Jonah 4:11).

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Information:** Read the passage/answer the questions.
- **Transformation:** Being honest/transparent, discuss how God through the gospel intends to change you.
- **Mission:** Pray together. Surrender to God's mission.

FAMILY DEVOTION DISCUSSION

- **Information:** Have your child read the passage.
- **Transformation:** Make it personal. Help them to see God's love through what He's already done for them.
- **Mission:** Pray/sing together, give yourselves to God.