

Sermon Discussion Guide

God in Pursuit: Week 1

Prayer

Take a few moments at the beginning and end of your group time to pray for each other and for your discussion in God's Word.

Read

Jonah 1:1-16

Main Ideas

In this passage, Jonah's story begins with him resisting God's call- to preach to the city of Nineveh and call them to repentance. Rather than obeying, Jonah flees from God, only to have a storm overwhelm the ship he is on. Jonah chooses to sacrifice his place on the boat instead of turning back towards God, contrasting him and the sailors who put their faith in Him.

Icebreaker Question

- Which would you prefer- a week-long cruise or a stay at a resort?

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of Jonah's story, what comes to mind?
 - a. How would you summarize his story in one sentence or less?
2. Why do you think Jonah had such negative feelings towards Nineveh? Can you think of a person or a group that you are tempted to dismiss or think as "less worthy" of God's grace?
3. Can you identify a time in your life in which you have resisted God's call to obedience? How did you experience His pursuit?
4. Is this story about God pursuing Jonah, Nineveh, or both? How is this instructive to our own lives today?
5. As a group, read Gen. 12:1-3 and Matt. 28:18-20.
 - a. What about God's heart do you notice in these two passages?
 - b. What about God does Jonah get wrong in his life?
 - c. Do you ever feel like you're in the same boat as he is?