

You Can Run But You Can't Hide (Jonah 1; p 774)

TRUE STORY?

I. JONAH RUNS (1-3)

A. Instruction (1-2)

B. Rebellion (3)

II. GOD PURSUES (4-17)

A. The Storm (4-16)

B. The Fish (17)

God is relentless in His loving pursuit!

III. APPLICATIONS:

A. Are you running from God's Word (lifestyle)?

B. Are you running from God's call (service)?

C. Are you running from God's grace (salvation)?

- God sees evil and calls it out (2)
- God does "give a thought to us, that we may not perish" (6)
- God provided/provides a way of escape (17); Matthew 12:38-41

Hearing & Doing Questions

1. Do you think the story of Jonah is historically true? Why or why not?
2. What do you think was the underlying reason Jonah ran away from God (v1-2)? When have you ever run from God's Word, call to service or invitation to salvation?
3. What does Jonah chapter 1 teach us about the following (and what are the implications for our attempts to get away from God)?
 - God's knowledge:
 - God's holiness:
 - God's power:
4. What contrasts (and comparisons) do you see between the behavior of the prophet Jonah and the pagan mariners? Who comes out looking better? How might that relate to Jonah's call to preach to pagan Nineveh and the "point" of this book for its readers?
5. **Food for Thought Question:** Our individualistic western culture thinks there is no such thing as collective guilt and punishment for others' sins or national sins. What do you make of v7: "Come, let us cast lots that we may know on whose account this evil has come to us" and v12: "I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you"? Do you think it is possible that natural disasters, wars or even terrorist attacks could be the result of sin? Why or why not?
6. Can you think of any hard, dangerous or "stormy" circumstances when you felt like God was pursuing you in a unique way to get your attention? Write a prayer of thanks that he cared enough to pursue you like that.