

# JONAH'S FLIGHT

jonah 1



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Phil preached on God's incomprehensible love and pursuit of the wicked. His patience towards us doesn't make sense, and may seem downright absurd at times. But we see throughout scripture his patience towards a fickle humanity riddled with sin and wickedness.

Jonah cannot fathom how God could desire the salvation of Nineveh, and so he runs in the opposite direction. But just as God pursues wicked Nineveh, God is also pursuing wicked and disobedient Jonah. His self-righteous pointing of fingers has blinded him to the own wickedness in his heart.

Jonah continues to spiral downwards and harden his heart, but God continues to pursue him and hurls a storm at the ship he is in. His behavior is worse than the pagan sailors as he is completely detached from the situation at hand. We find that Jonah would rather die than to see his enemies saved.

Jonah is the disobedient prophet, the misrepresentation of God, the one who did not want to see his enemies saved, but Jesus came as the obedient prophet, the perfect representation of God, the one who died so that his enemies could be saved.



## OUTLINE

### 1 GOD'S IRRATIONAL LOVE AND PURSUIT

We have a hard time understanding the love and pursuit of God, especially for those we have deemed 'wicked' and 'undeserving' of His grace. But it is his character to pursue all people, not desiring any to perish. Even more importantly, God reminds us that He is not only pursuing 'those wicked people,' but he is pursuing us in the midst of our own wicked self-righteousness. Only in humility, self-examination and reflection can we understand His heart and join in on His pursuit for the hearts of people.

### 2 JONAH'S CONTINUAL HARDENING

Jonah spirals downward and continues to run away even as God pursues Him. We often do the same. We all have different 'spiraling mechanisms' that we default to when running away from God. Sometimes we think we have a handle of things, but quickly find that we lose control. We must have a flexible spirit and a malleable heart!

### 3 JESUS, THE GREATER JONAH

Jonah was the disobedient prophet who hated his enemies to the point of death. He misrepresents the Father; Jesus was the obedient prophet who loved his enemies to the point of death, He is the perfect representation of the Father. Let's become more like Jesus (rather than Jonah) as we also take on the heart of the Father by participating in the Mission of God.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Do you have a moment where you have been changed while obeying an assignment from God?

2

What are the wicked things in our hearts that we've downplayed or fled from that God is now asking us to confront? What blindness, inconsistency or disobedience do we need to place on the altar of God and repent for at this time?

3

How does God's "limited patience" on wickedness create a sense of urgency for us to repent and see others come to repentance as well?

4

What are your personal symptoms of "running away"/ downward spiraling? What brings you out of it? How can we help you when you are in that place?

5

When was the last time you wanted God to go "Liam Neeson" on someone or a group of people?



## BIG IDEA

The Mission of God is one of pursuit, love, compassion, and patience. It does not absolve evil, but is patient in the midst of it. Rather than pointing at the wickedness of 'those people,' we ought to examine our own hearts and soften our hearts towards him. Let's have humble and flexible hearts that wants to become more like Jesus - becoming accurate representatives of the love of the Father!