

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening or troubling? Please explain.

2 Was there ever a time you wanted to or actually tried to run away from home? Tell the story. Why did you try to run away?

3 Read Jonah 1. What about Jonah story connects to your story of running?

4 Have you ever run from God, either a call you felt he placed on you or something you knew you should or shouldn't do but you fought it and did your own thing?

5 Often we run either to escape something we don't like or to find something we want. When you have run from God, which of these two drove you?

6 Is there something you sense God calling you to now, that you have been fighting, resisting, or running from?

7 Notice how God keeps chasing Jonah, with a great storm and eventually saving him with a big fish. What does this tell you about God, and about the futility of our running?

8 Pray for each other.

JONAH

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

RUNNING JONAH 1

SCRIPTURE : JONAH 1

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” **3** But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord. **4** Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. **5** All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. **6** The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.” **7** Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. **8** So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” **9** He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” **10** This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.) **11** The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” **12** “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” **13** Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. **14** Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” **15** Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. **16** At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him. Jonah’s Prayer **17** Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

MESSAGE NOTES

- 1 Prophets _____ to the people for _____ .
- 2 Go to the great city of _____ and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah _____
- 3 Then the _____ sent a great wind on the sea
- 4 Now the LORD provided a huge _____ to swallow Jonah
- 5 We run to _____ or to _____ .
- 6 In our _____ , God runs too... He _____ us down.