

DISCOVERY NOTES

Equipping Trinity Fellowship families to think, live, and be like Jesus.

July 14, 2024

STUDY & DISCUSSION GUIDE

Volume 1 | Number 15

RUNAWAY PROPHET

Jonah 1:1-16

INTRODUCTION

Jonah 1:1-16 teaches us that while we can run from God, we cannot outrun Him. God's sovereignty and relentless pursuit are evident throughout the story. By examining Jonah's actions and the reactions of those around him, we learn the importance of obedience and the impact of our choices on ourselves and others.

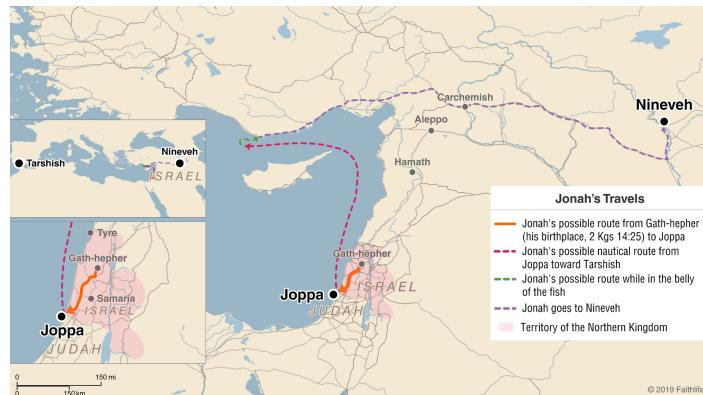
THIS WEEK:

This week we want to explore the myriad of ways in which God's love, discipline, and sovereignty plays out in the lives of individuals, nationalities, and nations of the world.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Jonah 1:1-16 and then answering the following questions:

1. What did Jonah do instead of go to Nineveh (v. 3)?



2. How did Jonah respond to the storm while on the ship (v. 5)?

3. What happened the moment the sailors threw Jonah overboard (v. 15)?

4. What was the effect this event had on the sailors (v. 16)?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. How does Jonah's attempt to flee from God's presence contradict the teaching of Psalm 139:7-12?

6. What does Deut. 4:5-6, Isaiah 49:6, Psa. 67:1-2, and Micah 4:2 indicate about God's purpose for the nation of Israel in his salvific plan?

7. In what way does Hebrews 12:5-6, 11 apply to what Jonah goes through?

8. How did the sailors treatment of Jonah contrast with Jonah's treatment of the sailors (vv. 6, 14)?

APPLICATION *Whv does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. Reflect on a time when you tried to run from God's call or direction in your life. How did that experience turn out, and what did you learn from it?

10. List a number of ways in which running from God can negatively affect the other people in our lives (I.e., spouse, kids, employees, parents, church, etc.):

11. Why do you suppose Jonah responded to the situation by going down into the boat to sleep?

12. Consider the sailors' reaction to the storm and their eventual fear of the Lord (Jonah 1:16). How does difficult circumstances lead to a deeper commitment and allegiance to God?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

15. What does this passage reveal about God?

16. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

17. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

DISCOVERY KIDS

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Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them Jonah 1:1-16. Use the following questions to have a discussion about how it is important to obey God.

1. What was Jonah asked to do by God?

Answer: Jonah was asked to go to Nineveh and preach against its wickedness.

2. Where did Jonah try to go instead of Nineveh?

Answer: Jonah tried to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

3. What happened when Jonah went on the ship?

Answer: A great storm came upon the sea.

4. How did the sailors react to the storm?

Answer: The sailors were afraid and prayed to their gods for help.

5. Can you think of another story in the Bible where someone tried to run away from God? What happened?

Answer: (Example: Adam and Eve hiding in the Garden of Eden; God found them and talked to them about their wrong choices.)

6. Why do you think Jonah decided to run away from God?

Answer: (Encourage children to think about fears or worries that might make them want to run from God's plan.)

7. What does the storm and the calm sea after Jonah was thrown overboard show us about God's power?

Answer: (Discuss how God can control even the weather and protect us.)

8. Why do you think the sailors were scared when they saw the storm?

Answer: (Explore the idea that they didn't know God like Jonah did.)

9. How can we know what God wants us to do when we are scared or worried?

Answer: (Discuss prayer, reading the Bible, and asking trusted adults for advice.)

10. When have you felt like running away from something God wanted you to do? What happened?

Answer: (Encourage sharing and discussing how God helped or could help in such situations.)

11. What can we learn from Jonah about obeying God even when it's hard?

Answer: (Talk about trusting God's plan and knowing He is always with us.)

WORD FIND

Jonah 1:1-16

W	L	A	N	D	W	S	H	I	P	S	J
E	O	M	T	I	G	T	J	O	N	A	H
H	R	A	G	P	N	O	L	E	B	I	F
U	D	D	C	N	T	R	O	U	B	L	E
T	H	E	N	M	L	M	C	B	S	O	A
P	A	U	P	O	O	P	A	T	A	R	C
F	A	L	I	T	A	R	S	H	I	S	H
L	D	E	C	O	M	E	T	R	D	W	W
E	G	B	K	A	N	S	W	E	R	E	D
E	P	L	E	A	S	E	U	W	C	'	P
T	C	A	L	L	K	N	O	W	A	R	T
A	F	M	I	B	E	C	A	U	S	E	O
G	R	E	A	T	P	E	R	I	S	H	N

The word of the **LORD** came to **Jonah** son of Amittai: “Get up! Go to the **great** city of Nineveh and preach against it **because** their evil has **come** up before me.” **Jonah** got up to **flee to Tarshish** from the **LORD’s presence**. He went down to Joppa and found a **ship** going to **Tarshish**. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to **Tarshish** from the **LORD’s presence**. But the **LORD threw** a **great** wind onto the sea, and such a **great storm** arose on the sea that the **ship** threatened to break apart. The **sailors** were afraid, and **each** cried out to his god. They **threw** the **ship’s** cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, **Jonah** had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep. The captain approached him and **said**, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! **Call** to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won’t **perish**.” “**Come on!**” the **sailors** **said** to **each** other. “Let’s **cast** lots. **Then** we’ll **know** who is to **blame** for this **trouble we’re in**.” So they **cast** lots, and the lot singled out **Jonah**. **Then** they **said** to him, “Tell us who is to **blame** for this **trouble we’re in**. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from?”

him, “What have you done?” The men knew he was **fleeing** from the **LORD’s presence because** he had told them. So they **said** to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?” For the sea was getting worse and worse. He **answered** them, “**Pick** me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I **know** that I’m to **blame** for this **great storm** that is against you.” Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry **land**, but they couldn’t **because** the sea was raging against them more and more. So they **called** out to the **LORD**, “**Please, LORD**, don’t let us **perish because** of this man’s life, and don’t charge us with innocent blood! For you, **LORD**, have done just as you **pleased**.” **Then** they **picked** up **Jonah** and **threw** him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. The men were seized by **great** fear of the **LORD**, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.