

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / OCTOBER 1

TO APPLY—NOT REHASH—THE SERMON

Read

Read Jonah 1 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “The story of Jonah is not about a great fish, but about a great and merciful God, who invites his children to be extensions of his mercy to others.”
- Sin is the intentional decision to go away from God (Jonah 1:3, 10).
- Becoming an “extension of mercy” means we have the right identity—rooted in Christ (Jonah 1:4–10).
- Becoming an “extension of mercy” means we need community with those we don’t like (Jonah 1:11–16).

Group Discussion

1. What did you know about the Jonah story before this weekend? How did the way Pastor Bryan framed the book’s theme change your approach to the story?
2. In Jonah’s story, it is easy to see sin as a decision to “go away from God,” because he literally got on a boat! Our sin is usually more subtle. How have you seen sin in your life manifest as a decision to run from God?
3. What identities do you choose for yourself—ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, career, relational? What might it look like, practically, to make these identities secondary to your identity in Christ?
4. What groups of people do you avoid or spend little time with? How can you, like Jonah, move toward community with them?

WEEKLY RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Reflect:** What does Jonah 1 reveal about God—especially his response to our sin and his posture toward the nations?
- Respond:** What step of obedience will you take because of this week’s message? Be specific.
- Reach:** Is there someone you need to forgive? Or ask forgiveness from? Consider reaching out to them this week.

PRAYER

- Pray that we would be people who are quick to follow God in obedience, not run from him in disobedience.
- Pray that God would open our eyes to the groups of people we tend to avoid—and then give us the courage to move toward community with them.