

FBC Groups Ministry Discussion Guide

The “I Am Jonah” Series

Part One: Background & Beginnings

God is Calling, I am Running, Jonah 1:1–3

What does knowing God mean to you? The story of Jonah helps us answer that question with greater meaning beyond the big ship, the big storm, and the big fish. Knowing God is more than being saved by God. Although personal faith in Jesus is how we experience salvation, it also brings us into a relationship in which we discover true identity, value, and purpose. Consider those greater things from God as we begin our journey in Jonah. Read Jonah 1:1–3.

Think of a time when you were told to do something, but blatantly did the opposite. In the days of Jonah, God had chosen him to be a prophet for his own people. Jonah had been faithful to his own people, but when God extended that calling to the people of Nineveh, Jonah chose to run. Consider these questions that reveal the ways we often run from God...

1. God, why do you think I am able?
2. God, why does it have to be me?
3. God, why can't I just do what I want?

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 1:1. What does it mean that Jonah was a prophet of God?
2. Jonah had served God for his own people. How was Jonah 1:1-2 different?
3. What are the reasons you would have been reluctant to this calling?
4. What does God's mission teach us about Him and how we find greater purpose?
5. In what ways do we avoid the greater call and purposes of God?
6. Describe a time when you went in a different direction from where you should.
7. What are the greater things that God is putting on your heart to do?
8. Do you ever behave as though you can run from God and He does not see you?

Final Thoughts and Closing Prayer:

How will you begin to run with God instead of away from God this week?
How will this study bring you closer to Jesus and how will you help others?

Notes & Reflections: