STUDY

Digging Deeper into "Jonah - the Runaway Prophet"

1. Share about a time you ran away from something—whether a responsibility, a hard conversation, or even a calling. What motivated your avoidance?
2. Before Sunday, what did you know about the book of Jonah? Why do you think the story of Jonah focuses more on the prophet himself than on his message?
3. **Take time to read the passage together, Jonah 1:1-3. Read it aloud slowly, perhaps in two different translations.**
4. Why does Jonah seem like an unlikely candidate for this call?
5. What does Jonah's backstory (from 2 Kings 14) reveal about the condition of his heart and his view of God's mission?
6. Why do you think God called Jonah to go to Nineveh—a brutal enemy city of Israel? What do we know about the Assyrians that makes this even crazier?
7. What does this reveal about the heart of God toward even the most "undeserving" people?
8. Can you think of a time when God called you to love someone or go somewhere that felt uncomfortable or unsafe?
9. Jonah's disobedience wasn't just reluctance—it was rebellion. What might that teach us about the seriousness of spiritual avoidance?
10. What are some "Tarshish" directions we might run to today? *(Think: distraction, busyness, comfort, isolation, success.)*
11. When you think about your current season, where might you be tempted to run from God's call?

12. What idols might have driven Jonah's refusal to obey? What might he have loved or feared more than God?
13. How can we recognize idolatry in our own hearts—even in religious or "moral" ways?
14. How does the gospel free us from needing to protect our comfort, control, or reputation?
15. How does Jesus' obedience (and love), in contrast to Jonah, deepen your gratitude for the gospel? What does that lead you to live out?
16. How does knowing God pursues runners (like Jonah and us) give you hope in your walk with Him?
17. Who might God be asking you to love or reach out to—your "Nineveh"?

PRAYER

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-