



## Running From Reality

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**Today's Text: Jonah 1**

**Q—Are you running from reality?**

- ⇒ We run from God because of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ⇒ We run from God because we think we know what is \_\_\_\_\_.
- ⇒ We run from God due to avoidance, but deep down it's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Q—Where, what, or who is your Tarshish?**

- ⇒ We run from God to the strangest places and people, which leads to the most difficult \_\_\_\_\_.
- ⇒ You can run from God but you can't \_\_\_\_\_ God.

**Q—Are you running away from God this morning?**



### Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

**Theme:** *You Can Run, but You Can't Hide*

**Share Together:** If resources were not an obstacle, where would you like to escape for a dream vacation?

**Look back together:** What impacted you most from Sunday's message?

**Read Together:** Jonah 1:1-3

**Discuss:**

- Why did God tell Jonah to go and preach His judgment to the Ninevites? How do you think Jonah felt about it, and what was the reason for his refusal to take God's message to them?
- In what ways can you relate to Jonah's disobedience? What is it that usually keeps you from doing something God wants you to do?
- Jonah chose Tarshish to run to. What types of "Tarshishes" do we tend to run to in life, to avoid God's voice?
- What was foolish about Jonah's belief that he could flee from God?
- What types of consequences are there for foolish disobedience, when we think we can run from God?

**Read Together:** Jonah 1:4-16

**Discuss:**

- What surprises you about the response of the experienced pagan sailors when the storm hit? How is this similar to non-Christians today?
- What is interesting about how the sailors responded to Jonah's confession? Why did Jonah tell the sailors to throw him into the sea?
- What does Jonah's confession reveal about his heart, as to what was missing in his confession?
- How do both the storm and stilling of the storm turn the sailors to the Lord? How did God use the storm to change the way you think about Him and His mercy toward others?

**Read Together:** Jonah 1:17

**Discuss:**

- As the Lord provided for Jonah, how does it communicate that despite our disobedience, God is not out to destroy us but provide for us? How has He provided for you?
- What area of your life is below the surface, that you need to deal with as you struggle to be obedient, for which you could use prayer?

**Pray Together:** Take time to share the good things God is doing in your life, as well as prayer requests you have.