

## **GOD'S MISSIONARY CALL**

# **Don't Run From Responsibility**

*Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:*

*Ice Breaker:* Share about a traveling experience that turned sour but you can laugh about it today.

- \* Brief prayer seeking spiritual understanding
- \* Read Jonah 1:1-16

### **Hear God's Call To Be Involved** (vv. 1-3)

Jonah is a graphic example of a terrible missionary. He had so little concern for lost people that he wished God would destroy them! However, God had a purpose for Jonah in spite of his attitude.

1. Who are all the people involved in this passage? What is happening in this story? How are those people like people in our world today? What would you have done in this situation . . . how are you and Jonah alike – and different?
  
2. What are some responses Christians give for not responding to God's command to share His Gospel with the world in which they live?
  
3. God chose Jonah. (He chose Moses, a poor speaker. The Apostles, Peter and Paul – far from perfect people.) What would the Spirit want us to hear from this example? (see John 15:16, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 13-15)

### **Realize God Is Persistent In Calling** (vv. 4-10)

Jonah's call was more specific than most. He was "called" by God to go to a different people group from his own (a cross-cultural missionary). However with our specific spiritual maturity in mind, God persists in calling us to be involved with His world-wide missions plan.

1. Discuss the multifaceted ways God pursues Jonah (physically, emotionally, spiritually). How could Jonah sleep at a time like this . . . do you think he was really at peace with God?

2. What does God's pursuit of Jonah reveal about:
  - A) The justice and mercy of God?
  - B) Human fear and faith?
3. Can we really "run away from the Lord"? (Psalm 139:7-12)

### **God Reveals . . . We Respond – Accept Responsibility** (vv. 11-16)

1. In this "to be continued" chronicle of Jonah, how is admission of guilt a first step in coming into line with God's purpose of redeeming a lost world to Himself? How is this like what we read in Philippians 2:13? Discuss how agreement with God is important in discovering God's plan for our lives.
2. What does God do in the lives of the sailors when Jonah finally, yet reluctantly, shares his faith (v. 9) and they throw him overboard? (Notice that their plan was foiled, v. 13) Discuss what that reveals about the character of God.

**Wrap up:** Ponder and discuss: "Our disobedience jeopardizes the world."

### **Prayer:**

For one another

## **LIFE GROUPS**

*A safe place to build friendships and nurture spiritual growth.*

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ