

# SUMMER READING: *Jonah*

## The Sea: Fleeing Mercy

Jonah 1:1-17

### Welcome

This week we continue on the book of Jonah. One of the themes of the book of Jonah is about fleeing God's mercy and Grace. When was a time you felt that you were running away from God and His mercy? When was a time that you felt God was chasing after you?

### Worship

As you pray this week use **Ephesians 1:3-6** as a template. Thank God for his relentless grace and love. Confess to God the idols that you worship over God, for the ways you have chosen lesser loves. Praise God for his work in your lives and the world. Pray that God's kingdom would come in the world.

### Word

Read: **Jonah 1:1-17**

1. What in the word stood out for you, encouraged or confused you?
2. What insight or questions did you receive from Pastor Laurie's exposition of the text on Sunday?
3. What seems both fitting and surprising about God's command in v2? About Jonah's evasive effort? Why do you think Jonah disobeyed?
4. What affect did the stirring and stilling of the storm have on the sailors?
5. What does God's pursuit of Jonah reveal about the justice and mercy of God, the gifts and call of God, human fear and faith?
6. Where have you tried to escape God? What 'storms' brought you back?
7. Where do you see others around you trying to escape God? What would they need to be brought back to God?
8. In your life with God right now do you feel that you are running from God more, running with God, running behind God, running back to God, etc...?
9. Jonah lacked perspective on God's presence on work. Where do you need God to 'flip the switch' and give you a new perspective on yourself and your situation or God's work, plan, and power?

### Witness

What is one practical way that you could follow God's command to love God and neighbor this week? Especially in a way or to people you would like to run from?

*"The farther I run away from the place where God dwells, the less I am able to hear the voice that calls me the Beloved, and the less I hear that voice, the more entangled I become in the manipulations and power games of the world."* —Henri Nouwen