

Small Group Discussion Guide - April 26, 2026

Running from God's Call

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:1–3

Context Insight:

Jonah isn't just afraid—he's actively resisting God's mercy toward Nineveh. His movement "down" reflects spiritual decline.

Discussion Questions

1. Jonah is told to go, but he runs in the opposite direction (v.3). Where do you see avoidance or resistance in your own life when God nudges you?
2. The text emphasizes Jonah "going down." What might that downward movement symbolize spiritually?
3. Why do you think Jonah didn't want Nineveh to receive God's message? What does this reveal about his heart?
4. In what ways can we obey God outwardly but still resist Him inwardly?
5. How does running from God lead to a kind of "death" (relational, spiritual, emotional)?

Tie Back: Jonah 1:3 highlights both physical and spiritual distancing from God.

God's Heart for the Lost

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1–2

Context Insight:

Religious leaders are upset not because Jesus is doing something wrong—but because He's extending grace to the "wrong people."

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about who is drawn to Jesus in verse 1?
2. Why do the Pharisees and teachers of the law react negatively in verse 2?
3. How is their attitude similar to Jonah's?
4. Who are the "Ninevites" in our world today—the people we might struggle to welcome?
5. What does Jesus' behavior teach us about what resurrection life looks like in practice?

Tie Back: Luke 15:2 exposes a tension between religious correctness and God's compassion.

From Death to Life

Scripture Reading: Jonah 2:1–10

Context Insight:

Jonah’s time in the fish becomes a powerful picture of death and deliverance—later echoed by Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jonah describe his experience in the fish? What “death-like” language does he use?
2. Why is it significant that God rescues Jonah after his rebellion?
3. How does this moment foreshadow resurrection?
4. Can you think of a time when God brought something in your life “back from the dead”?
5. How does experiencing God’s rescue change how we should view others?

Tie Back: Jonah 2 shows that God brings life even out of rebellion and failure.

Living the Resurrection

Scripture Reading: Revisit Luke 15:1–2

Context Insight:

Resurrection isn’t just something we believe—it’s something we embody.

Discussion Questions

1. If resurrection means bringing life to what is lost, how should that shape our relationships?
2. Where might God be calling you to move toward people instead of away from them?
3. What attitudes (like Jonah’s) might prevent us from participating in God’s mission?
4. How can we practically “welcome” people the way Jesus does?
5. What would it look like for our group to reflect resurrection life together?

Tie Back: Luke 15 shows that resurrection life is expressed through pursuit, welcome, and restoration.

Closing Thought

Jonah gives us a glimpse of resurrection as **being brought back from death**.

Jesus shows us resurrection as **bringing others back with us**.