

JONAH

GOD COMMISSIONS THE RESISTANT

Week one Jonah 1:3



Stubborn: [stuhb-ern]
There's nothing more beautiful than the stubborn love of God.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

Can I make a confession? When I was a little kid, I loved candy bars. One year my sister Chris, a cheerleader at her High School, was selling candy bars as a fundraiser (all my favorite kinds). Well, I found out where she kept them, and I decided to steal a few. She had been counting them and knew immediately that a few were missing. But, driven by my love for chocolate I still sneaked into her room, descended down into the basement and enjoyed the glories of chocolate underneath my bed. Too bad I wasn't smart enough to hide the wrappers! One day my mom was searching the house for evidence and my sin was found out. There, underneath my bed, was a pile of discarded wrappers. I learned some valuable lessons from that experience. One for sure, that no matter how you try to cover your sin it will always find you out!

Jonah learned a similar lesson. He was so incensed at God's desire to be merciful to the Ninevites, that he fled in disobedience thinking that hiding in the hull of the ship he could be concealed. God had a different plan and took Jonah on an amazing adventure in which he would learn that the only thing more stubborn than him, was the stubborn love of God.



WATCH

Play the video prepared for this lesson by Pastor Derek. Video sessions are available for download at www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS



PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment and discuss how God's grace is evident even in times when you weren't really being obedient.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

1. Have you ever tried to run from God? What were the circumstances that led you to think you could run from Him and how did He bring you back? If someone was running from God how would you counsel them from God's word? Pick at least 2 Scriptures you would share with them.

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?"

Psalms 139:7

2. Hatred is toxic to our hearts. When you are struggling with bitterness or hatred, how do you make the change to loving others, even your enemies?

Is there anyone that you are bearing bitterness or hatred towards today? How are you going to handle that?

"Keep yourselves in the love of God."

Jude 21

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:23

3. The devil is all too willing to assist you in your disobedience. He made it easy for Jonah to run.

How can you tell the difference between a door the devil is opening, and a door God is opening?

4. In this story, the only thing more stubborn than Jonah was the love of God. Even in Jonah's rebellion God demonstrated mercy to the sailors that called on His name.

What does that tell us about God's love and how do we incorporate His love for others into our daily lives?

"The only thing more stubborn than the heart of man is the stubborn love of God."

Derek Neider



REACH

Considering what God revealed to you this week, let the Spirit examine your heart for any hatred you might be holding towards others. Repent of that and ask God to empower you to love your enemies.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear you how God's Spirit empowered you love the difficult people in your life.