

CT Community Groups Study Guide

Message: Running from God

Series: Chasing God | Pastor Adam Browett

Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you tried to avoid doing something you knew you should do (it could be a chore, a difficult conversation, a project, etc.). What finally motivated you to face it? How did it turn out?

Discussion Questions

1. Justifying Disobedience – Jonah 1:1-3

Jonah convinced himself he didn't have to obey God's call to Nineveh, and even found a ship going the opposite direction. The message reminds us: "Sometimes we justify our actions by circumstances that seem to work out."

- Have you ever experienced a time when circumstances seemed to confirm a decision you made, even though deep down you knew it wasn't what God wanted?
- What are some common ways we rationalize running from God's specific calling in our lives?

2. The Wake-Up Call – Jonah 1:4

Pastor Adam shared: "Sometimes storms are not punishment; it is God trying to get our attention." While Jonah slept below deck during the chaos, God used the storm to redirect him.

- Why do you think we sometimes need storms or difficult circumstances to get our attention?
- Can you identify a "storm" in your life that turned out to be God's wake-up call rather than punishment? How did you recognize the difference?

3. Spiritual Numbness – Jonah 1:5-6

The message noted: "When we run from God we think we can sleep through our problems" and "we know if we went to God he'd tell us something we don't want to hear."

- What does spiritual numbness look like in everyday life? What are the warning signs?
- How can we cultivate honest prayer and vulnerability with God, even when we're afraid of what He might ask us to do?

4. Ripple Effects of Rebellion

"When we run from God, our rebellion doesn't just impact us, it impacts those around us." The sailors' lives were endangered because of Jonah's disobedience.

- Who in your life is most affected when you're spiritually "out of sync" with God?
- How does understanding the impact of our disobedience on others motivate us toward obedience?

5. Mercy on Mission

The message emphasized that "God saves us not just for salvation's sake but to send us on mission." Ironically, through Jonah's disobedience, the pagan sailors came to faith and offered sacrifice to the Lord.

- What does it mean that we're saved to be sent? How does this challenge or expand your view of salvation?
- Is there a specific "Nineveh" God might be calling you toward—an uncomfortable mission, an unlikely person to love, or a step outside your comfort zone? What's holding you back?

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for courage to stop running from what God has clearly called us to do
- Ask God to wake us up from any spiritual numbness or disengagement
- Pray for His perspective on current storms or difficult seasons
- Commit to step out in faith, trusting that His mercy pursues us even in our weakness

Going Deeper This Week

Read Jonah chapters 2-4 to discover what happens next in Jonah's journey. Pay special attention to Jonah's prayer from inside the fish (chapter 2) and God's final words to Jonah about His compassion for Nineveh (chapter 4).