

FUSION Q's...Jonah Part 1:

Runaway Prophet

Discussion Theme: Rebellion

1. Theme Question for discussion...

- ☆ Whys is it that we so often want to run away from what God wants us to do?

2. Read Jonah 1

3. Discussing the text

Leader's Heads up: Jonah represents all us - all of us have a natural and sinful nature that wants to reject God so that we can fulfill our own selfish desires.

- ☆ What exactly was God asking Jonah to do?
- ☆ How was this different from what God usually expected of his prophets?
Leaders... Normally a prophet's main mission was to deliver God's message to the people of God - especially messages of repentance. Nineveh was an enemy of God's people.
- ☆ Why do you think Jonah decided to run away from God?
- ☆ Do you think it's possible to actually run away from God? Why or why not? (Read Psalm 139:7-10)

4. Redirection

It's easy to point the finger at Jonah for his disobedience, but Jonah represents all of us - this is our default setting - to reject God's ways and go our own way. What is important to understand in this story is that even a prophet of God can reject what God wants and run away from it. This is significant because Jonah had given up his life to serve God as his prophet/messenger. Jonah was a recognized servant of God by both the Ninevites (people who did

not follow God's ways) and God's people (people who were expected to follow God's ways). How much more is that possible of us?

5. Digging Deeper

Leader's key thought: running away from God can become so "normal" for us that we sometimes don't even recognize it anymore!

- ☆ List some ways that you find yourself running away from what God wants you to do in your life.
- ☆ What can you do to be better prepared for saying "yes" to God instead of "no way, dude"?
- ☆ Is there something specific that God has been asking you to do that you are running away from right now? Explain.
- ☆ What are you going to do about it?

Psalm 139:7-10

- ⁷ I can never escape from your Spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!
- ⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, you are there.
- ⁹ If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.
- ¹¹ I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night—
- ¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.