

HIT THE GROUND

RUNNING

God is Asking Me to Do What??

Discussion Guide

January 6, 2019

Jonah 1:1-17

Questions for Study

** Before you begin, please read Jonah 1:1-17 as a group.

- 1) Have you ever been asked to do something that was 100% out of your comfort zone? What were you asked to do? Why was it so uncomfortable? How did you respond?
- 2) Look closely at Jonah 1:1-3, then answer the following questions:
 - What is God telling Jonah to do? Why would this have been such a big, uncomfortable “ask” in Jonah’s mind? (For a little background on what Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, is like not long after Jonah’s story, read 2 Kings 17:1-6 and Nahum 3:1-4.)
 - How does Jonah respond to what God calls him to do?
 - While God’s message for Nineveh is one of judgment (v. 2), Jonah’s actions tells us that he knew God would show grace to the Ninevites if they responded to God’s message the right way. What does God’s sending of Jonah to Nineveh tell us about God’s heart for the nations? Why?
- 3) Do you feel like you’ve ever run the opposite direction from what God has called you to do (either in big ways or in small ways)? If so, how did this make you feel? As you reflect back on that, what lessons stand out to you? Are there steps you need to take today to “get back on track”?
- 4) It’s noteworthy that God didn’t just let Jonah run away and find someone else to bring His message to Nineveh. What lessons should we learn from this? Explain your answer.
- 5) How do we see God’s power to change lives in Jonah 1:4-17? (Look especially at how the sailors respond to everything that’s happening.) How does this provide hope and confidence in God’s power to dramatically change lives still today?
- 6) A clear message of Jonah 1 is that God invites His people to join in His mission of reaching those who don’t know Him – even if this thrusts us out of our comfort zone (see also Matthew 28:19-20). How can you take steps to join God in His mission in 2019? (For e.g., this may mean signing up for a Go Teams trip, it may mean reaching out intentionally to neighbors or co-workers, etc...)
- 7) What have you learned from Jonah 1:1-17 that can help you “hit the ground running” in 2019? What practical steps will you take in light of this?
- 8) **Challenge: Memorize Matthew 28:19-20:** 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”