

Destinations: Where Are You Going?

Week 2: Wrong Way

Series:

- Week 1: Jonah, Nineveh, and God
- Week 2: Wrong Way
- Week 3: Change of Heart?
- Week 4: Let's Redo This
- Week 5: A Sad Ending

Scripture:

Jonah 1:4-17

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

Jonah, a rebel prophet, refused to go preach to the evil people of Nineveh.

Jonah 1:1 (NLT) The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.” **3** But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

Information (What You Need to Know):

God Chases Jonah

What is affected when God is chasing after us?

- **Connection with God**

Jonah 1:4 (NLT) But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. **5** Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold.

- **Relationships with others**

Jonah 1:6 (NLT) So the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.” **7** Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.

- **Testimony among unbelievers**

Jonah 1:8 (NLT) “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?” **9** Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.” **10** The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. “Oh, why did you do it?” they groaned.

Jonah Continues Running

What is affected by continuing to run from God?

- **Life loses meaning**

Jonah 1:11 (NLT) And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?” **12** “Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.” **13** Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn’t make it.

- **Others may abandon you**

Jonah 1:14 (NLT) Then they cried out to the Lord, Jonah’s God. “O Lord,” they pleaded, “don’t make us die for this man’s sin. And don’t hold us responsible for his death. O Lord, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.” **15** Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! **16** The sailors were awestruck by the Lord’s great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. **17** Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

Application (What You Need To Do):

How far is God willing to go when a person is moving away or not moving?

- **God disciplines those He loves**

Hebrews 12:5 (NLT) And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. **6** For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

- **God disciplines those who are His children**

Hebrews 12:7 (NLT) As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? **8** If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

- God disciplines for our benefit

Hebrews 12:10 (NLT) For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. **11** No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.