



## *Comparing Calls*

**Do we avoid God's  
call or answer it?**

### ■ SERIES SUMMARY

■ Most people know Jonah as the story of a runaway prophet and a great fish. But Jonah is far more than a children's story. It is a story about reluctant obedience, unexpected mercy, and God's relentless pursuit. As we explore this remarkable little book together, we'll find that God is not only pursuing Nineveh or even Jonah—He is patiently shaping the hearts of all who are willing to follow Him.

■ As we compare Jonah's story with the life and teachings of Jesus, we'll discover that God's greatest work isn't just changing our circumstances—it's changing us.

### ■ ICEBREAKER

■ What's one place you'd prefer the Lord not to send you?

### ■ SCRIPTURE

■ **JONAH:** Jonah 1:1–3

■ **GOSPEL:** Luke 9:57–62, Mark 1:16–20 and 2:13–17



## LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. What would you think is typically the difference between people who run from God's call and people who say yes?
2. In Luke 9, each hesitant follower gives a reason for delaying. What do those responses reveal about the cost of following Jesus?
3. Mark emphasizes that the fishermen & Levi came "immediately." Why do you think the Gospel highlights their prompt obedience?

## EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. What kinds of fears or concerns are most likely to keep you from saying "yes" to God?
5. Have you ever had the experience of finding that the very thing you were resisting ended up being one of your greatest blessings?
6. From your experience, when does partial or reluctant obedience become tempting?

## WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What kinds of things does God call people like you to do?
8. How can we work on being faster to say "yes" to God?
9. If you have kids or grandkids, what do you think they most need to know from you when it comes to hearing and responding to things God may call them to do?

## TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, give us hearts that are quick to trust and obey Your voice. We are listening. Help us answer Your call with faith instead of fear.  
Amen.

