



Message Series Guide



Aftermath

Week 2 – Repentance in the Aftermath

Jonah 1 & 2

God calls you to a particular task...or moves you in a certain direction...or calls you to repentance. Instead of responding in obedience, you resist and do just the opposite. You run! You run in the opposite direction. The truth is, God allows us to run. He gave Jonah plenty of room to run. And while we may be able to live in disobedience or avoid repentance for a season, God is willing to do whatever it takes to get our attention and draw us back to Him. We can run from God, but we can never outrun God. Jonah ran from God and found himself in a storm and eventually, in the belly of a fish. But in the aftermath of Jonah's rebellion, there was true repentance.

READ:

Jonah 1:1-8 & 15-17; Jonah 2:1; Numbers 32:23b; Proverbs 28:13; Luke 8:17

- Why did God tell Jonah to go and preach His judgment to the Ninevites? Why do you think Jonah refused to take God's message to them? What is it that usually keeps you from doing something that God wants you to do?
- What was foolish about Jonah's belief that he could flee from God (v 3)? What do you think Jonah was thinking as he fled to Tarshish? As he experienced the violent storm?
- Why did Jonah tell the sailors to throw him into the sea? What does Jonah's confession reveal about his heart? What does it take for you to acknowledge your disobedience?
- What affect did God's stilling the storm have on the sailors? How did God use the storm to turn Jonah back to him? How did God use Jonah's disobedience to save the sailors?
- What did God use to save Jonah? What does God's pursuit of Jonah reveal about God? How does this fact about God impact you personally?

DISCUSS:

- Did you ever run away from home as a child? What happened? As you look back, describe a point in your life when you were "running" in a direction away from God?
- Why do people run away from God? What is it about God's reputation that causes many people to run away rather than run to Him?
- Jonah seemed to be the last person in the boat to recognize the chaos going on around him. Why do you think that those who are running are the last to connect their choices to the chaos in their lives?
- Why is it that many people view difficulties in their lives as a way of God paying them back? How might those hardships be a way of God not *paying* them back... but *bringing* them back?

PRAY:

Examine your heart for any rebellion or unconfessed sin in your life. Pray for God's grace and restoration.

RESPOND:

Identify areas in your life where you are currently running away from God. Are you experiencing any "storms" as a result? If so, find the courage to return to a God that's been waiting for you to come home?