

*When coming to this study we ask that you pray first. Take the time to ask God to speak through his scripture. If you don't get to all of the questions but have spent time with God your task is accomplished.*

*Then before reading the questions read the word. You can use some of the notations below to track your reactions and thoughts as you go:*

**Inspire:** write a (!) beside what stands out positively so far and write a note about why

**Inquire:** write a (?) beside what doesn't make sense. Ask why it's there. OR by what raises a question for you.

**Irk:** write a (#!?) beside what rubs you the wrong way or creates dissonance.

**Require:** write a ( ) beside something that demands change within you

**Underline or highlight phrases that stick out.**

**After you're done going through the passage. Take a few moments to review your notes.**

**Write one sentence off the cuff. Based on your first impression, what are you thinking? How may God be speaking?**

**Let these prompts below continue to guide your dialogue with God and lead you into deeper reflection on His word.**

## **JONAH 1: 7-16 TOSSING DOWN OUR IDOLS.**

- How would you define an idol?
- What are some examples of "current-day" idols?
- In what sense might some of your experiences have created "idols"?
- What idols, good or bad, do you find create separation between you and God?
- Where do you run first when life gets hard or you become stressed? How long do you strive before turning it over to Jesus? There are good things in life that God gives us. It's not that we cannot relax, enjoy a good movie, hike,

have a great meal, or do whatever you do to destress. The trick is when they take God's place as Lord of Life.

- Take some time to give them over to Jesus in prayer. Ask that He redeem them. Ask that God would use the ones that are good (simply in the wrong place) for His glory and your good. Ask that God would help you stay away from those that are not helpful and need to be resisted.
- Jonah's defiance put the sailors at risk of dying. Our defiance of God can hurt others. Have there ever been times when your tension with God, or defiance of God, hurt others?
- God still used Jonah's defiance to reveal himself to the sailors. What do you think of the fact that God can use even your disobedience to reveal Himself to others?
- In light of God's heart for these polytheistic sailors and untold billions of lost people in the world and God's mercy toward Jonah and us, what actions should characterize a believer's or our church's heart for the lost?
- When you think through your week, do you think your time is more aligned with Jonah's heart or Jesus'?
- Pray:

Try praying while holding your hands, palms up, in front of you. Use this posture to release your desires to God, receive what he has for you, and communicate your openness and willingness to obey him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal areas of your life where you are valuing things more than God. Invite him to illuminate your unwillingness to obey, and give him permission to do whatever it takes to show you that life is better with Him behind the wheel and not you.

Request forgiveness for those times you have lifted things to God's spot as Lord of your life.

When you are finished, keeping your hands out, listen carefully in the silence.

This week:

Pay attention to how you spend your time. Ask Jesus to help you see what draws you near to him and what pushes you away. Each day when you wake up ask Jesus to direct your steps through the day.