



“Sailors, Meet Jonah”

August 14, 2022

CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read Jonah 1

1. What stands out to you from this passage? What does this passage show us about God? What does this passage show us about ourselves?

Recap the sermon

2. What stood out to you from the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?

There are two fixed realities in our relationship with God that we heard in the sermon:

- *There is an instinct within us to resist the leadership of God.*
- *There is an instinct within God to chase us.*

3. How have you seen this in your personal relationship with God - both your running and His chasing?

Like Jonah, we saw that our running from God can look a couple different ways:

- Distraction (God speaks, we don't hear)
- Makeover (God speaks, we change what He said)
- "Let's Make a Deal" (God speaks, we offer something else)

4. How do you see these responses to God in your life?
5. In Jonah's life we see that God used painful scenarios and extreme measures (what we called "severe mercies") to get Jonah's attention. Looking back, do you see a similar time where God used a severe mercy to bring you closer to Him?

Pray - Pray that we would rightly see our tendency to run from God and His word. Recognizing this, pray God would change our hearts and show us that His plan and His mercy is better than our plans to distract and run away. Pray for more trust in God's character.

CARE AND PRAYER

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10) *Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes.*