



Jonah wk1: Ticket to Tarshish

Introduction: Jonah is more than a fish story. It reflects a rebellious prophet, God's love for him and the lengths He'll go to bring people to Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is fear such a strong emotion? What is your usual reaction to fear? Have you ever had a memorable reaction to fear?
2. Read **Jonah 1:1-3** Why do we think Jonah ran (or at least think at the early part of the story)? What reasons were there to fear the Assyrians?
3. What makes sharing a message from or about God difficult? What kinds of things do you find difficult to talk to others about?
4. Read **Jonah 1:8-16** If the sailors already know Jonah was running from his god, why are they terrified by his answer? What does it say about them that they don't readily throw him overboard? Do you think Jonah's telling the sailors to throw him overboard was a noble sacrifice or something much worse?
5. What does it say to us about how God uses such imperfect instruments to bring people to Him?
6. Watch the Bible Project video about Jonah. It is on the app under the register tab or you can google search (Bible Project Jonah). What do you see or hear that challenges you?
7. Why do you think God would send a prophet who seems so unwilling to go and share His message? Are there any ways that Jonah reminds us of ourselves?

Shaping Your Mind – “Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” *Romans 2:4*

Moving Forward – Don't get so lost in the fish story that you miss the point about grace!