



The Man Who Ran – Message 1

Warm-up

If you could travel anywhere in the world this summer, where would you go and why?

Word and Application

Our current series is from the Book of Jonah—*Jonah and the God of Another Chance*. In the title, the words “A Second” are scratched out and replaced with the word “Another”. Why do you think this correction is significant?

Read Jonah 1:1. The emphasis for our lesson is that the Word of the Lord **will** come to us. God speaks to us in different ways. He speaks through:

1. His Word
2. His prophets
3. Voice of His Holy Spirit
4. Circumstances

When God speaks to us, we always have a **choice**. We can do what God wants or we can do what Jonah did and choose not to obey. Give an example of a time when God spoke to you through any of the ways listed above. What was your response? What can you share about this experience that will encourage others in your Small Group?

Read Jonah 1:2, Jonah’s instructions from God. Why did Jonah choose to disobey God? Did Jonah think he knew what was better for the people of Nineveh than God? How do you think Jonah justified his

own disobedience? In what ways do we attempt to justify our own disobedience? What can we do to silence the excuses that enable us to disobey God?

“Lag time” is a mark of spiritual maturity. As growing believers, we want to respond quickly to the voice of God. What lessons did you learn from Jonah about delaying obedience? What truths did you learn about God during Jonah’s “lag time”?

Just like Jonah, we can always find a boat sailing in the opposite direction that may seem to provide passage out of God’s will. Why does running away from God never work? How does it make matters worse? What are things you can do to stop “drifting” away from God?

Read Jonah 1:4. Can you relate to a time when God allowed a storm to grab your attention? What resulted after God got your attention?

How was Jonah’s “fish timeout” exactly what he needed? How does this encourage you?

Life Challenge

Jonah is often described as the “reluctant prophet”. He was reluctant to obey and fulfill God’s vision for his life. The word reluctant means to be unwilling, opposed, resistant or unenthusiastic. Would you use any of these words to describe your attitude about what God is presently asking you to do? If so, what have you learned from this message that will change your attitude from reluctant to willing, ready, eager and enthusiastic?

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.