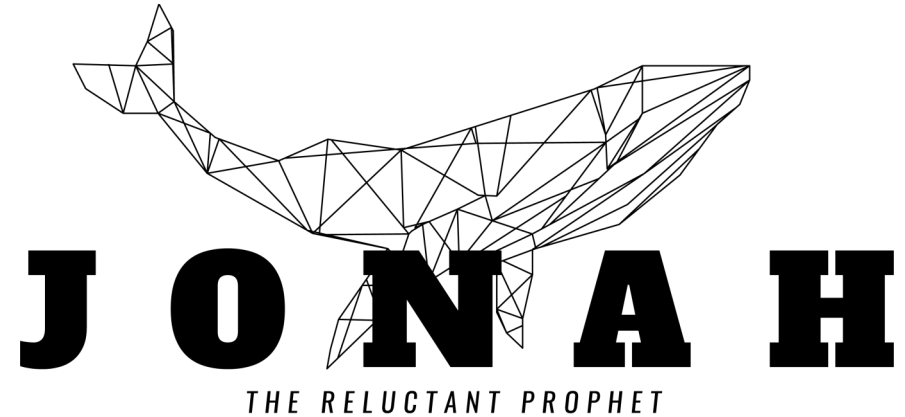


OBSERVE

- What did God command Jonah to do?
- Why did Jonah flee to Tarshish, which was in the opposite direction of Nineveh?
- Why was running from God not going to work?
- Compare Jonah's response to that of Peter in Acts 10.

APPLY

- In what way have I felt God's prompting and resisted?
- Does the idea that I cannot hide from God's presence give me peace or dread?
- How does this change how I see God?



WEEK 1: JONAH RUNS JONAH 1:1-3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

FURTHER READING

Jonah 3:10-4:3

Psalm 139:7-12

Acts 10:1-48

THE FAMILY ROOM

JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

DISCUSS

Jonah ran away because he didn't want to obey God. He ran in the opposite direction of where God wanted him to go! Is it easy or hard to obey? Why? What do we do when we don't want to obey? What sorts of things could we do that would be better than getting angry or running away? Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God? What does it communicate when we obey?

VERSES

Luke 11:28 "Jesus replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

John 14:21a "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me..."

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 'so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'"

FAMILY ACTIVITY IDEAS

'I SEE JONAH' GAME

Draw a picture of Jonah, or have a child in your family draw him. Make him small; approximately 1" x 2." A stick man will work just fine. Alternatively, use a toy like a Lego man. This is a game of hide and seek with the picture of Jonah.

Hold up the picture and say, "This little guy is Jonah. He is running away from God. I will hide him and you will look for him. When you find him, you will call out "I see Jonah!" But don't touch him or point to him. After you spot him, pretend that you don't see him right away. Move away from where he is hiding before calling out that you have spotted him. You want to be the first one to spot him, but you don't want to give any clues as to where he is hiding. We will keep playing until everyone has spotted him and called out that they see him."

Seekers should cover their eyes or leave the room while "Jonah" is being hidden. The picture can be hidden behind or under furniture, but should be visible without moving anything. Seekers will search without touching anything. Let each person in the family take turns hiding Jonah.

FAMILY RULES BOARD

As a family, set up some positive family rules. Explain that obeying helps us to show love to each other and stay safe. Attach it to a small poster board and let the kids draw pictures on it. Display the family rules for all to see. Give lots of praise when the rules are followed or add stickers to the poster when you "catch" the kids obeying the rules.