



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 5th May 2024



### Jonah 1:1-4 The rebellious prophet

#### Warm Up

Shortly after my mum died, my dad was out in town. He spotted a woman, one of my mum's friends. She had fussed over him. He wanted to avoid meeting her, so he stepped into the nearest shop to hide. The store assistant asked if he needed help. He said "I'm looking for the bank."

The assistant replied, "I think you need us more. You're in the opticians!" Have you ever done something to deliberately avoid contact with someone? Run away or hide? Why did you do it?

#### Background and context

In this short introductory passage we begin to learn a great deal about the prophet Jonah and about God Himself. Things to make us reflect on our own attitudes and some surprising things about God.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Jonah 1:1-4** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jonah/>

If possible watch the overview of the book of Jonah from the Bible Project

1. If you were new to the book of Jonah and did not know the story what would be surprising about **ch1:1-4**.
2. Why do you think Jonah runs away?
3. Why is God concerned for the Ninevites? How do **Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 11:33 and Acts 11:18** help us understand this?
4. What was the flaw in Jonah's plan to escape? In what ways do we behave in the same way as Jonah?
5. Jonah's story **should** have stopped after **ch1:15**. Why doesn't it? What other examples of God's mercy and grace coming to the rescue are there in the Bible?

#### Discipleship and application



6. Who are the Ninevites in your life today? How do you feel about them?
7. How might you respond if God called you to go to them and preach the Gospel? (He has, by the way. Matthew 28:18-20)
8. How do you feel about God's mercy to your "enemies"?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.