

## **Jonah 1-2**

### Jonah's Disobedience

#### **Introduction**

**Question:** Have you ever wanted to turn away from something you knew God wanted you to do?

Sometimes it takes all the willpower we have to obey. Yet how easy it is to do wrong in the first place. We get mad and we react. That's what it feels like with God sometimes, too. He asks us to do things we don't want to do – things that are difficult, uncomfortable or even painful. So politely but firmly we refuse His command and try to put it out of our minds. Yet as Jonah discovered, our disobedience can even be more costly than our obedience.

#### **Jonah 1**

**Question:** Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a nation that was a fierce and powerful enemy of Israel's to the northeast. How does Jonah respond to the Lord's command to preach there (vv. 1-3)?

**Question:** Tarshish, traditionally identified as Spain, was over two thousand miles in the opposite direction. While Jonah was journeying to Tarshish, what kinds of thoughts and feelings might he have experienced?

**Question:** How do you think Jonah felt when the captain urged him to call on God for help (v. 6)?

**Question:** Why do the sailors become even more terrified after they hear Jonah's story (vv. 7-10)?

**Question:** Jonah acknowledges his guilt in verses 11-12. Do you think he is repentant at this point?

**Question:** How does God use this calamity to demonstrate His grace and mercy (vv. 15-17)?

**Question:** How does this chapter illustrate the futility of running from God?

#### **Jonah 2**

**Question:** What initial thoughts and feelings did Jonah have (vv. 3-6)?

**Question:** How did these terrifying events affect Jonah's attitude toward God?

**Question:** Why do you think God answered Jonah's prayer?

**Question:** Why can we be confident God will hear our prayers even if we are suffering the consequences of disobedience?

**Question:** Why do you think we sometimes have to sink so low before we remember God?

### **Reflection**

We run from God in ways that can be as obvious as Jonah's actions and in much more subtle daily ways. In what area of life are you currently running from God?