



## Discussion Guide Man Overboard — Part 1 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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"Jonah concluded that, because he could not see any good reasons for God's command, there couldn't be any."

[Tim Keller, "Prodigal Prophet"]

### ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

If you could have a big fish express cough you up on any shore, where would you like to go?

### BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, help us see ourselves in the story of Jonah—I pray that any part of us that is in hiding would be revealed so we can come back to the God who pursues us with love and compassion.

*"For as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights."*

[Matthew 12:40, CSB]

### BIG IDEA ||

God is a Missionary God—both to His enemies and to His own people who run from His presence.

### PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || [Jonah 1:1-16](#)

1. In the sermon we heard, *"We all tend to seek a 'place' (our Tarshish) where we can nurture pride and exercise control.* Where do you tend to go to escape? What do you run to when you're rebelling?
2. What was your impression of what Jonah was about before this series started?
3. How have you run from God?
4. What problems have you had with God?
5. Think of the enemy who has done the most harm to you, your family, your culture, or those you love. If God sent you to them with a promise of mercy, would you be tempted to pull a Jonah and refuse to go?
6. Read Luke 15:11-32. Who is your lost brother (or sister)? Are you angry about what they did?
7. How is it that people who were once so close to God, like Jonah who had heard and given God's word to people, can still rebel?
8. Read Mark 4:35-41, then reread Jonah 1:4-6. How are these scriptures mirrors of each other?

9. Have you ever been stuck in someone else's storm when you just happened to be working on the wrong boat?.
10. Has the Lord "appointed" a great fish of a problem in your life to bring you tough grace?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

God is a missionary God **both for His enemies and His children.**

*As you consider your next step, reflect on:*

- 1) Who have you been sent to with a message of mercy?
- 2) What problems you've had with the Lord can you take up again in a bold, hard conversation with Him this week?

## Step of Faith Ideas

1. Bring up a scripture that shows an aspect of God you struggle with. You may need to search a bit to find what you're looking for, and that is not just okay—it's often super valuable!
2. Be on a mission of mercy like the God who loves you enough to send big fish to bring you home to His table again. Who do you need to reach out to?

## PRAYER FOCUS ||

### Mission of Mercy

We worship a God of mercy who sends grace in all shapes and sizes—from big fish to famines to friends—and He loves His enemies and His children enough to do what it takes to reach us.

- Look out for mercy in unusual shapes and sizes this week
- Look out for opportunities to love your enemies and your family
- Look out for God to bring up in you places of anger that need healing. Be ready to ask Him to heal it!
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
  - *"Merciful Father, full of lovingkindness and grace, You have pursued us with everlasting love. Fill us with Your love, and remove any barrier that might keep us from pouring out that love and getting to watch You transform enemies into Your family. Your kingdom come; Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."*