

Jonah: On The Run

Chapter 1—Jonah Runs From God

When we run from God, [we pay the fare](#).

📖 *Jonah 1:1–2 (NIV84) “The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”*

📖 *Jonah 1:3 (NIV84) “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 sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.”*

When we run from God, [we invite storms to come](#).

📖 *Jonah 1:4 (NIV84) “Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.”*

1. Some storms [are Satan sent](#).
2. Some storms [are our fault](#).
3. Some storms [God sends](#).

📖 *Job 37:12–13 (NLT) “The clouds churn about at His direction. They do whatever He commands throughout the earth. ¹³ He makes these things happen either to punish people or to show His unflinching love.”*

When we run from God, [we endanger other people](#).

📖 *Jonah 1:5–6 (NIV84) “All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.*

⁶ *The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish.”*

📖 *Luke 9:26 (NIV84) “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*

📖 *Jonah 1:7 (NIV84) “Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.”*

📖 *Proverbs 16:33 (NIV84) “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”*

📖 *Jonah 1:8–15 (NIV84) “So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”⁹ He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.”¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?”*

(They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.¹⁴ Then they cried to the LORD, “O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased.”¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.”

When we run from God, [we run into God](#).

📖 *Jonah 1:16–17 (NIV84) “At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to Him. ¹⁷ But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.”*

📖 *Psalms 139:7–10 (NIV84) “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”*

Digging Deeper: Have you ever felt God lead you in a specific direction? Have you had God close a door in your life? Pastor Mike said, “Just because things are going well for you doesn’t always mean you’re IN GOD’S WILL. Conversely, when things aren’t going well for you, it doesn’t always mean you are OUT OF GOD’S WILL.” Do you agree with those two statements? Explain. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Do the people in your life know you have a relationship with the LORD?