

Based On a True Story - Jonah

May 28-29, 2016

Community:

1. What are some of your favorite, amazing stories for your family?
2. What is your favorite Bible story, and why?

Core:

1. **Read Malachi 3:6** and **Hebrews 13:8**. If this is all true, what does this say about God, and how we should trust the stories we read in the Bible?
2. **Read Jonah 1:1-16**. What are your initial thoughts about Jonah and his decisions?
3. Jim Burgen pointed out that, *"You can run from God, but you can't outrun God."* We see this truth with Jonah. Where have you experienced this truth in your life?
4. **Read Jonah 1:5**. Jim said, *"Runners always hurt those standing close by"*, as we see with Jonah and the sailors. Have you been hurt by a "runner"? Or have you hurt others by your "running"?
5. **Read Jonah 1:11-12**. Jonah had to be thrown overboard to calm the seas. What needs to happen to "calm the seas" around you, and those you love?
6. **Read Jonah 4:1-2**. What do you think about Jonah's attitude toward God's character? Do some of those same traits (and the way God deals with people) bother you too?
7. As the story of Jonah makes clear: you cannot outrun God and God always has a plan to bring you back. Where does this shine hope in your life?
8. What is your biggest takeaway from the story of Jonah?

Challenge:

Take this week to pray, asking God to show you where you are running from Him. Then, ask God to do whatever it takes to bring you back to Him—whatever it takes.