

THE BOOK OF JONAH

Part 1: “A Prophet on the Run”

Introduction

If you're familiar with the Bible—even if only through *VeggieTales*—you've probably heard the story of Jonah. Jonah's story is unusual, but it's not unique. Most of us have run at some point. What God is asking us to do seems risky, undesirable, or just unfair...so we run. Our experience when we run from God may not be as dramatic as Jonah's, but running is always riskier than surrender.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you heard the story of Jonah before? What do you remember about it? How does hearing the historical context in which it took place affect how you process it?
2. Can you think of a time when you made a conscious decision to run from God? How did that play out?
3. Tim Keller wrote, “Jonah concluded that because he could not see any good reasons for God's command, there couldn't be any. Jonah doubted the goodness, wisdom, and justice of God.”¹ How do you respond when you can't see any good reason for what God is doing or calling you to do?
4. Read Jonah 1:12. Can you think of a time when your avoidance, pride, or stubbornness impacted someone else? How does recognizing this help you move forward differently?
5. Read Jonah 1:15–17. Where in your story has God met you with mercy instead of judgment? How might your past resistance become part of someone else's redemption?
6. What are you currently running *from* that you should be running *to*? What would it look like to begin the process of surrendering to God in that area?

¹ Timothy Keller, *Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God's Mercy* (New York: Penguin Books, 2018), 15.