

Jonah and the God Who Pursues and Restores

Jonah is a prophet who is called to deliver a warning of judgment to a rebellious nation. He runs from his calling at every turn, showing little faith in Yahweh. But eventually he goes to the city of Nineveh to deliver God's message. In this 2 week series we will learn more about the God who pursues and restores.

Week 1: *The God Who Pursues* (Emmanuel Dominguez)

1. **Read Jonah 1:1-3.** Have you ever experienced a time when you were running in the opposite direction of what God was calling you to do? How did you handle that situation?
2. **God's pursuit will do whatever. Read Jonah 1:4-6.** How do you interpret the idea that God's pursuit can be seen even in moments of punishment or correction? Follow up: How does the concept of God's pursuit being willing to do whatever it takes resonate with your understanding of God's character and actions in your own life?
3. **God's pursuit will reach whoever.** In **Jonah 1:13-16**, we see the sailors, who initially worshiped multiple gods, turning to Jonah's God in fear and reverence. How does this demonstrate God's pursuit reaching whoever, regardless of their background or beliefs? Follow up: Share a personal experience or a story you know where someone encountered God in a time of crisis or desperation, similar to how the sailors turned to God during the storm. How did that impact those close to that situation?
4. **God's pursuit will be there wherever. Read Jonah 1:17-2:4.** Jonah's prayer from inside the fish emphasizes the idea that God's pursuit will be there wherever. How does this speak to the relentlessness of God's love and mercy? Follow up: what does it teach us about God's presence and provision, even in the midst of our disobedience or struggles?
5. In what ways do you see parallels between Jonah's journey and our own spiritual journeys today? Follow up: How does the concept of God's pursuit challenge our understanding of His character and His relationship with us?
6. Reflect on the connection between Jonah's story and Jesus calming the storm in **Mark 4:38-40**. What similarities and differences do you see? What can you learn from that?
7. In light of the message, what practical steps can we take to respond to God's pursuit in our lives? Follow up: How does understanding God as the one who pursues you impact your relationship with Him and your approach to following His call?

