

SERIES TITLE: **CASTAWAY**

PART ONE: **ESCAPE ATTEMPTS**

TEXT: **JONAH 1**

INTRODUCTION.

This is a study of the prophet Jonah, and his emotional argument with God. The story begins with Jonah refusing God's mission, and ends with Jonah's regret over the mission's success. These four chapters illustrate the power and mercy of God in spite of human weaknesses and reactions.

DISCUSSION.

- If you ever tried to run away from home as a child, what prompted that desire?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-3 What might be the reason(s) why Jonah ran away?

- Compare and contrast his response to other prophets (1 Kings 17:1-6, Jer. 1:4-10).
- Although the location of Tarshish cannot be absolutely identified, what can be learned from Isaiah 66:19?

Vv.4-6 The Hebrew word for "descend" is used several times in these first 6 verses.

- What does this suggest about Jonah's emotional and/or spiritual state?
- We are specifically told that the LORD sent the storm. What does this illustrate about the character and call of God?

Vv.7-16 What stands out to you about the sailors:

- in their treatment of Jonah?
- in their response to circumstances?
- In their attitude to the LORD?
- God called Jonah to warn Nineveh of their "wickedness" (in Hebrew-*rah*). And yet Jonah brought "calamity" (in Hebrew-*rah*) upon the sailors. What do you make of this irony?

V.17 What is significant about the detail that God "appointed" the fish?

- Jonah was the only prophet to whom Jesus compared himself (Matthew 12:38-41). What is the comparison?

APPLICATION.

- According to this chapter, what are the costs of running from God?
- If God miraculously intervened in our lives every time we disobeyed or tried to run, what would that do to us?
- Can you share any past “storms” God has used in your life to bring you back?
- In what ways does God pursue us when we are resisting him?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?