

“The Hound of Heaven”

Jonah 1:1-6

June 28, 2026

Jonah 1:1-6

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me.” **3** Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the Lord’s presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the Lord’s presence.

4 But the Lord threw a great wind onto the sea, and such a great storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart. **5** The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god. They threw the ship’s cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.

6 The captain approached him and said, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won’t perish.”

Have you ever had a misconception about God or the Bible?

Main idea: the gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people—no one is beyond his grace.

2 Kings 14:25 – He restored Israel’s border from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word the Lord, the God of Israel, had spoken through his servant, the prophet Jonah son of Amittai from Gath-hepher.

What is Jonah called to do? What does Jonah do? How does he run—completely?

What does the Lord do?

Christ the Savior in the storm for all people.

Matthew 8:27 – The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey him!”

Many look at the Bible and think God has loved Israel more than any—that God just wanted to protect them, but that was never the aim. God didn’t save Israel for Israel.

Isaiah 19:25 – The Lord of Armies will bless them, saying, “Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance are blessed.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
2. Is there something you used to believe about God or the Bible that you no longer believe? Any misconceptions that you had or you've known about?
3. What is the hardest thing you feel like God has asked you to do? What would be the hardest for you to give up if Christ asked you for it?
4. What does running from God look like today? How do you know the hound of heaven has set his eyes upon you?
5. What does the storm reveal about God's sovereignty and the futility of resisting divine will? In what ways might God use "storms" in our lives to redirect us toward His purposes?
6. How do you find comfort in knowing that God does control the storms?
7. What might Jonah's actions reveal about how we sometimes limit God's grace to people we think deserve it? How does it excite you to know that God saved you so that another can hear and be saved?
8. What are some typical reasons believers do not share the gospel with the lost regularly? Which reason mostly characterizes the hesitancy you have shown in sharing the good news with unbelievers you know?
9. How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week? How can they pray for you this week?