

RUNNING FROM GOD

Jonah 1.1-3

BACKGROUND

2 Kings 14.23-27

The book of Jonah chronicles events that took place sometime in the 8th century BC. During this time, Israel was being ran by Jeroboam II, who did evil in the sight of the Lord. Jonah was a prophet, brought up in the ways of Elijah and Elisha.

Ninevah was the capital of Assyria, and a treacherous place filled with pagan Gentiles. It lies in the heart of the city of Mosul in modern day Iraq. Despite Jonah's past glory as a follower of God, his resume did nothing for him to bring about present obedience.

RUNNING FROM GOD

**Pursuing a God-centered life will not make
your struggles easier,
It will make your struggles harder.**

The more we are called to God-centered living, the more we realize the problem is not our circumstances, or the people around us, but the problem is inside of us. And yet when we are faced with our own sin, we easily will justify it or blame other things or people, or we will minimize it and compare it to other people's sin. Additionally, we will always be looking to *past obedience* and wanting to get credit for that to apply toward today's sin.

**No past privilege, nor all past privileges together, no past
obedience, nor fruitfulness of service, can ever substitute for
present obedience to the Word of God.**

-Sinclair Ferguson

JONAH MEETS HIS MATCH; HAVE YOU MET YOURS?

Jonah was on the verge of giving up. He wanted to get as far away from his calling as he could. The cost was too much. Yet he paid a different fare in order to get away. Each of us battle a "Jonah Syndrome." Every believer has been called by God in a general sense, and every believer has been called by God in more specific senses. Whether it's comfort or control, money or pleasure, a good life or an easy life, the security of job or family, or the desire for a healthy marriage and good kids, or the desire for image, being liked, or having a godly image as seen by others, we will fight tooth and nail to get those things.

NOTES:

Upcoming Sermons:

Next week we continue our new series in the book of Jonah, which is a well-known story, but it is not just simply a book about a big fish and guy who got swallowed up, but it's a story about God's faithfulness and the relentless love and grace that He gives us.

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Proverbs 16:9

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering during service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some snacks or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. **Serving is one of the best ways we experience community** within our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll build friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group on a Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets during service, **Text any amount you'd like to give to 760-621-7323**, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/give, or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM here at Classical Academy in the Study Hall**. For more info or questions about our student ministries, email **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the Memory Verse?

Read **Jonah 1:1-3**. What stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Who was Jonah? What was his background? Does a bright past necessarily preclude a bright present? Jonah's background was full of godly influence. What things in your past make up your highlight reel? How does this reflect where you are today? _____

Are there areas in your life where you are taking God out of the center and putting yourself there? Even only for a season? Explain. _____

Has there been a time in your life where God has called you to do something, but instead of obeying you ran the other way? What was it, and if you have done this, how should you have responded? _____

Jonah was unwilling to follow God at this point. There was idolatry in his heart, something more important to him than God's call on his life. No doubt, he either hid this or ran from godly counselors in his life. Read **Galatians 2:20** and **Proverbs 27.5, 6**. Our life is not our own, but is there a certain thing in your life that is off limits for discussion with others? If yes, why? Do you struggle with inviting others to speak into your life? _____

On Sunday Pastor Jobey asked a few questions at the end of his sermon. Spend some time going through the questions as a group:

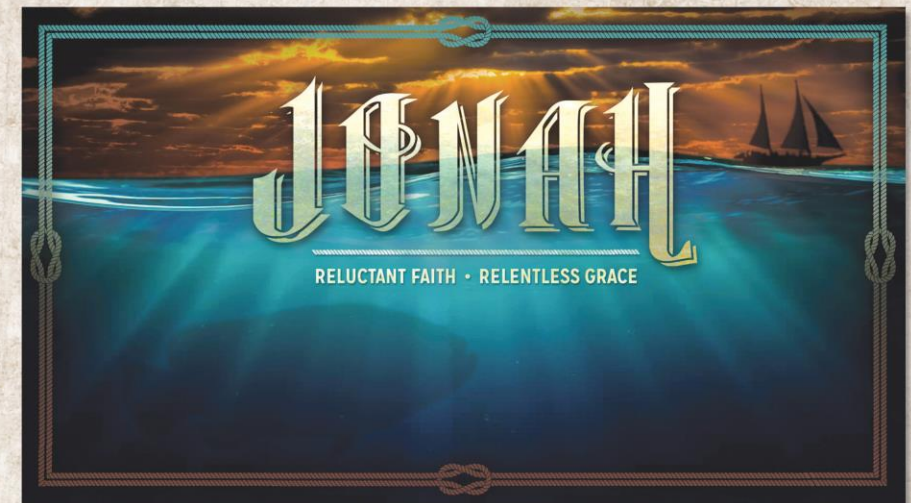
- Would you say that you are willing to follow God no matter what? _____
- In the past week, how have you focused on yourself and put yourself at the center? _____
- When was the last time you became angry, or the last time you ran from God or God's people in order to get away? _____



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

Pastor Jobey McGinty
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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



RUNNING FROM GOD

Jonah 1:1-3 // April 23, 2017

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

**Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025**



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