

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Jonah

Main Idea

The story of Jonah reminds us that following God isn't always comfortable or convenient. When God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, he didn't like the assignment—so he ran. Yet even in Jonah's resistance, we see the persistent mercy of God. This message highlights a powerful truth: we can try to run from God, but we can't outrun His presence or His purpose for our lives.

Through Jonah's journey, we're challenged to examine our own obedience. God's Word is clear, but our response isn't always immediate. Sometimes we mistake open doors for God's direction, or ignore the storms meant to get our attention. This week's message invites us to trust God fully, obey Him quickly, and recognize that our choices don't just affect us—they impact the people around us. As we begin our discussion, let's ask God to soften our hearts and align our will with His.

I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. JONAH 1:9

Make it Practical:

God doesn't always call us to what we like, but His Word is clear and trustworthy.

- Jonah 1:1–3
- 2 Timothy 3:16

Not every open door is from God, and sometimes He uses storms to redirect us.

- Jonah 1:3–6

Our disobedience has consequences that affect others, not just ourselves.

- Jonah 1:7–12

Talk About It

- Can you think of a time when God asked you to do something that felt uncomfortable or difficult? How did you respond?
- What are some ways we might mistake “open doors” as God’s will? How can we better discern His direction?
- How have you seen someone else impacted by your obedience—or disobedience? What does that teach you about responsibility?

You can run from God, but you can’t hide from God.

Prayer

God, thank You for Your patience and mercy in our lives. Even when we run or resist, You continue to pursue us with love. Help us to trust Your voice, obey Your Word, and respond quickly when You call. Give us discernment to follow Your direction and humility to recognize when You are correcting us. Shape our hearts to reflect Yours in every area of our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

1. Identify one area where you may be resisting God’s direction and take a step toward obedience this week.
2. Spend time in Scripture daily, asking God to make His Word clear and personal to your life.
3. Invite accountability by sharing with a trusted friend or group member where you want to grow in obedience.