

# JONAH 1 – RUNNING OUT

WATCH



**WATCH:** <https://vimeo.com/455518034>

**(Jonah - Discovering God's Faithfulness) (10'44)**

*Taken from HTB groups*

Theme: Jonah is going in the opposite direction – but he can't get away from God.

**REFLECTIONS: (based on questions from video)**

- When was the last time you had to do something you really didn't want to do?
- Have there been any times in your life when you have found it hard to do what God wants you to do?
- Read the story of the Lost Sheep in Matthew 18:10-14. When has God chased after you?



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**LISTEN**



**LISTEN: The Amazing Jonah (48'26)**  
**(podcast)**

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/the-amazing-jonah/>



### Read Jonah 1

**“The challenge of declaring God’s word to people who don’t believe”.**

1. Can you identify with Jonah’s unwillingness to speak God’s work to the people of Nineveh?
2. Every Christian should be an ambassador for Christ - but we often keep it quiet. Why do you think that is?
3. Can you think of a time where you’ve plucked up the courage and *not* ‘headed off to Tarshish’? How did it go?

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## BIBLE STUDY

**“God can reach us how ever far we run”**

4. Look at Psalm 139: 1-12. These verses would have been well-known to Jonah, but still in Jonah 1 v 3 we read ‘Jonah ran away from the Lord’. Physically, he set out in the opposite direction, but he knew he could not out-run God – look and see how he describes God in verse 9. More importantly, spiritually, he was running away from what God had asked him to do.
5. Looking at verse 9, what do you think was going through Jonah’s head as he was shaken awake? In his reply to the sailors’ questions, which ones doesn’t he answer? Why?
6. Look at verse 6, and the subsequent verses involving the sailors (7-10; 14-16). How did God work out this situation into something for good? Can you think of other places in the Bible – or in your life - where God has triumphed over something wrong and turned it around?
7. Read verse 12 in Jonah 1. He despaired of future usefulness to God, but what had he forgotten about the God that he and we serve

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## GOING DEEPER

Jonah was a prophet and had a specific ministry from God. Yet he did not do what he was asked to do.

What do you think lay behind Jonah's actions in the events in today's passage?

For example, consider the task he was asked to do: and how he described himself (with some pride) to the sailors. Consider this quote from Tim Keller's book *The Prodigal Prophet*:

**"There are many people who have no idea what they should be living for, or the meaning of their lives, nor have they any guide to tell right from wrong. God looks down at people in that kind of spiritual fog, that spiritual stupidity, and he doesn't say, 'You idiots.'"**

**When we look at people who have brought trouble into their lives by their own foolishness, we say things like "Serves them right" or we mock them on social media: "What kind of imbecile says something like this?"**

**When we see people of the other political party defeated, we just gloat. This is all a way of detaching ourselves from them. We distance ourselves from them partly out of pride and partly because we don't want their unhappiness to be ours.**

**God doesn't do that. Real compassion, the voluntary attachment of our heart to others, means the sadness of their condition makes us sad; it affects us. That is deeply uncomfortable, but it is the character of compassion."**

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**PRAY**

Ask God if there are any areas he may be asking you to bring before him – anywhere you may be running away from him – anything he's asking you to do that's difficult that you need to ask your group to help support you with.

Which people and which places has God put in your life to share the message of the gospel with - take some time to pray for them and think how you can use the opportunities God has given you.

