

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Jonah***Chapter 1: Fleeing the Presence of the Lord***REVIEW**

Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to Scripture alone for the glory of God alone. These “5 Solas” have become the tagline of the Protestant Reformation that began 500 years ago. Saints from the past, most notably, Martin Luther, sought to reform the Catholic church by returning to the pure, unadulterated word of God that revealed an assured salvation by the merits of Jesus alone, not by the works of man. Throughout October, we’ll examine these “5 Solas” being reminded of the beauty of the one, true gospel.

**APPLY // VARIOUS SCRIPTURES**

1. Read the following verses that show God is pursuing his own glory:
  - a. Numbers 14:21
  - b. Psalm 106:7-8
  - c. Isaiah 43:7, 25; 48:9-11
  - d. Ezekiel 20:14
  - e. Romans 11:36; 15:7
  - f. Ephesians 1:3-14
  - g. 1 Corinthians 10:31
2. Is the pursuit of God’s glory incompatible with the pursuit of our joy? Discuss why or why not?
3. Discuss ways you have seen God increase (in your own life or in the lives others) in the following areas.
  - a. Vocation
  - b. Finances / Giving
  - c. Relationships with fellow church members
  - d. Relationships with non-Christians
  - e. Relationship between you and the Lord
4. Are there specific areas where God needs to increase, as you decrease, in the above areas?
5. How does God’s grace compel you to decrease as he increases?

**STUDY // JONAH 1**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Jonah 1-4. Discuss basic contextual questions.
  - a. What is the genre of literature?

- i. It's not an allegory! Historical (prophetic) narrative - Jesus treated the story as historical when he used elements of the story as pointers to other historical events, including his death and resurrection (see Matt. 12:40-41)!
  - b. How does verse 1 identify Jonah? Read 2 Kings 14:23-27.
  - c. Historically speaking, where does this place the book of Jonah in the biblical timeline?
    - i. Jonah was written during the reign of King Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23-25), which was roughly 800 years before Jesus was born. During this time the nation of Israel was prosperous, but steeped in sin.
2. What do we learn about the city of Nineveh from the book of Jonah? Why doesn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh? What does this tell you about Jonah's heart?
  3. In chapter one, notice the refrain, "from the presence of the Lord" (v. 3, 9, 10). What does this phrase mean? How does this language impact the way we should define sin?
  4. What effect does Jonah's behavior have on those around him? How does this help you think about your own rebellion against God and its impact on others around you?
  5. What does this passage teach us about the nature of sin? Discuss how these principles are still at work in our lives today.
  6. Looking verse 9 what do you notice about Jonah's "confessional theology"? What warning does this provide to us?
  7. How does God respond to Jonah? What does this tell you about the character of God?
  8. How does knowing that the Lord relentlessly pursues those who rebel against him affect how you relate to him and to others?
  9. How did the men respond to Jonah's suggestion (1:13)? Why do you think they responded this way?
  10. Contrast the sailors' behavior with that of Jonah? What do you make of these differences?
  11. Contrast the sailors' behavior in verse 5 with their behavior in verses 14-16. What does this tell us about the character of God?
  12. List some reasons God's people (that's us!) disobey the Lord. What forms of disobedience are you most susceptible to? Why?
  13. Summarize the meaning of Jonah 1 into one short sentence.
- General Bible study questions:
    - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** In what ways has the "5 Solas" series encouraged, challenged and/or convicted you?