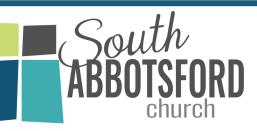
# The Life Challenge

Title: A Long Way Down Text: Jonah 1 Speaker: Matt Ewert Date: May 17, 2020



#### WARM-UP

The story of Jonah is one of the most famous accounts in the bible. What memories come to mind for you as you hear the story?

- Maybe you associate it with the Veggie Tales feature length movie.
- Maybe it brings you back to a time as a child when your Sunday School teacher illustrated the story on a flannel graph board.
- Maybe it reminds you of a fishing trip you once took.

#### DISCUSSION

#### Read Jonah 1

- What do you think Jonah was hoping to accomplish by fleeing to Tarshish? Did he actually think he could hide from God?
- Why did Jonah so willingly offer to be tossed overboard? Had he given up? Had he come to some sort of revelation? Did he expect to live or die?
- In what ways do the pagan sailors come across as more praiseworthy characters than Jonah does?

### Pastor Matt suggested that while Christians often worry about missing God's call, potentially the bigger challenge is the possibility that one might evade God's call.

• Reflect on that statement and share your thoughts about it.

### Pastor Matt pointed out that the book of Jonah depicts the prophets avoidance of God's call as a journey in the direction of death.

- In what way could one equate evading God's purpose for one's life with death?
- On the flip side, in what way might one equate embracing God's call with experiencing real life?

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#### DISCUSSION

By the end of chapter 1 we don't know why Jonah has run away from God's call, we simply know he has.

- What are the excuses Christians use today for resisting God's calling and purpose?
- Can you identify any excuses you have used for not living out God's purpose for your life?

Take a few moments of silence to reflect on any ways in which you are aware of evading God's purpose for your life.

• Spend time in prayer, inviting God to give you the courage to walk in step with Him and embrace your calling.