

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?

The Life Challenge

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



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.