



**Jonah 1: Stopping a Runaway Servant**

*It's tough to win against the sovereign hand of God*

This week's teaching underscored a unique approach God used with his runaway servant. He demonstrated to Jonah **the greatness of His purpose** (i.e., to save lost men/women/children) **through the greatness of His power** (His sovereign hand in the storm, in the sailors, in the preparation of a large fish).

Admittedly, God may not always use such dramatic means to get our attention about what He passionately wants to do, but then again, He is God, and we are not. **This study explores examples of how God worked in the lives of people to demonstrate that His purposes are not to be set aside by our foolish running.** Let's lean in and learn.

**GETTING STARTED** (read the following together):

Share with the group any dramatic (or unavoidable) experience you've had that arrested your attention, and perhaps changed the course of your life.

- As you reflect on this today, do you sense that God's hand was behind it?
- What was God trying to communicate to you through it?
- How responsive were you? What changes resulted?

**GROUP STUDY – examples of God stopping someone to get their attention.** Survey at least one of the incidents cited and work the questions.

- (1) Exodus 3:1-21 (continues in 4:1-17)  
 Who was involved?  
 What did God do?  
 What was God out to accomplish?  
 Was there cooperation with God's plans?
- (2) Judges 6:11-24 and 36-40  
 Who was involved?  
 What did God do?  
 What was God out to accomplish?  
 Was there cooperation with God's plans?
- (3) Acts 9:1-19  
 Who was involved?  
 What did God do?  
 What was God out to accomplish?  
 Was there cooperation with God's plans?

Wrap up your time in the word by discussing whether or not God still works in our lives like this today?

- Is there any purpose He wants to accomplish through you that seems, well, a bit impossible?
- Are you objecting, or cooperating, with God's word to you about this?

**PRAYER TOGETHER** – Take up the following as you pray together

- Any personal needs and/or requests you have
- For Christ Community Church's readiness to extend love and relationship with internationals during the upcoming ministry year (Sept 2019-May 2020)
- For anyone you know whom you are having a heart for sharing the Gospel with, someone you need to have the Holy Spirit open up a natural and winsome opportunity.

-----  
 "It may make us uncomfortable, but we are servants of a God whose heart throbs with compassion for those that we may want to leave alone, or simply don't like...but are nonetheless perishing. Are we willing to do what His word directs us to do, by His Spirit?"

Pastor David Staff