

# Engaging God's Compassion

A study on God's compassion in the book of Jonah

Jonah 1: Running from God's Compassion

1. The Assyrians were the most horrifically evil nation at that time. They would torture many Israelites routinely to inspire fear. Now Jonah is asked to go there. Put yourself in the shoes of Jonah, do you think you would have tried to avoid going to Nineveh?
2. Have you ever wondered how God could forgive certain over-the-top wicked sins?
3. Are there any times you remember God asking you to do something difficult that you tried to refuse? How did it end up turning out?
4. Have you ever had a near death experience?
5. Imagine you are one of the sailors who just found out that Jonah's God is the creator of all things including the sea. It is his fault that they are in a storm. How would you react? How about after he asked you to throw him overboard?
6. Has God ever surprised you by doing something a different way than you would have?
7. Read Exodus 33:19b and Romans 8:1-2. Jonah's sin and disobedience did not foil God's plan of compassion. What has your personal experience been with undeserved compassion and mercy from God?
8. These sailors were dangerous and tough men, yet they fell to their knees and sacrificed before God. Have you ever known someone that you never thought would be saved only later to find out they were?
9. Read Jonah 1:13-16. Do you think we will see the sailors in heaven and even be able to talk to them about the time they threw Jonah overboard?
10. Is there a people group that you hold a certain amount of contempt toward (perhaps terror groups)? Would you pray for those people that God would enter their lives and show them mercy?