

## LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: JONAH CHAPTER 1

THEME: FLAWED SERVANT OF GOD

### LAUNCH

Discuss a book, play, novel or film in which a hero tried to run away from their responsibilities. What was the responsibility & why did they run?

Or

Is there a chore or thing that you need to do that you have not got round to doing (cleaning a gutter, clearing a patch of brambles etc)? What is your excuse and what is the real reason you have not done it? What have you ended up doing as an alternative?

### DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

The moment Jonah starts running, his life becomes miserable. What are Jonah's misery lows within chapter 1?

What are the warning signs that you are beginning to drift or even run away from God? How can you go about 'nipping these in the bud'?

Have you ever had a time when you have sought to escape God and your life became miserable as a result? What needed to happen?

Jonah was escaping the responsibility of preaching repentance to Nineveh. What spiritual responsibilities might you be trying to escape at the moment?

The great preacher CH Spurgeon writes this about Jonah being asleep:

*"Jonah was asleep amid all that confusion and noise; and, O Christian man, for you to be indifferent to all that is going on in such a world as this, for you to be negligent of God's work in such a time as this is just as strange. The devil alone is making noise enough to wake all the Jonahs if they only want to awake... All around us there is tumult and storm, yet some professing Christians are able, like Jonah, to go to sleep in the sides of the ship."*

*Charles Spurgeon*

Would you say that Spurgeon's comments are true of the church today? Why or why not?

In what ways did the storm cause the sailors to become 'quite theological?'

Would you say the storm of Corona is having a similar effect on society today or not? Explain your reasons.

Has there ever been a time when you've been obliged to share your faith in a 'most reluctant manner'? What were the circumstances & what happened?

#### APPLICATION

In the same way that Tim had a list of things to take whilst running away from God, what list of things might you wish to do to prevent yourself from running away from God?

Is there someone who you would like to share your faith with in the next couple of weeks? Pray for the opportunity for this to happen