

# 05 GOD IS EVERYWHERE

KEY TEXT: JONAH 1:15-2:10

## CENTRAL truth

**We can try to run from God, but we're never outside His reach.** When we finally realize that life without God is much scarier than anything He might ask us to do with His help, He is ready and willing to help us get back on track. As the prophet Jonah discovered, no matter how far we try to run from Him, God is only a prayer away.

## key question

**How did Jonah's plan to run from God to preserve his own comfort and safety work out for him? What can we learn from his mistake?**

Jonah's plan backfired. He either forgot or didn't want to think about the fact that God is everywhere, sees everything, and is all-powerful. When God decides something is going to happen, He makes it happen one way or another (see Is. 46:11). When we resist cooperating with Him, He disciplines us. Whatever obedience to God may cost us, it's always much safer to submit to Him than to try to live life without Him.

## keep in mind

Jonah's reasons for running from God may have been selfish and judgmental, but people run from God for many reasons. Don't assume that just because your students came to class, they want to be there. They could be hurting inside. They may feel distant from God, but feel the need to please someone in their life by being there.

Remember that it's not your job to tell your students how to feel or to condemn them for rebelling. It's your job to point out the fact that God loves them and wants what's best for them, even when His idea of "best" doesn't match theirs. Make sure they know that you are a safe place for them if they have questions or concerns they want to discuss.

## application

**How should we respond when God asks us to do something uncomfortable?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should understand that cooperating with God is always the best course of action. If He is trying to get their attention and drawing them back to Him, it's because that's what's best for them. They need to know God sees, understands, and loves them.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Communicate the importance of obeying God, but be careful not to make your students feel guilty for past or present rebellion. Leave conviction up to the Holy Spirit.

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