

## Discussion Guide :Tough Jobs: Jonah

### ICE BREAKERS

- If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- What is the toughest job you have ever done? What made it tough?
- What is the best “second chance” story you have ever heard (outside the Bible)?

### CONNECTING

- Has God ever asked you to do something that you didn't want to do?
- How much of your anger comes from not getting your own way? How do you normally express your anger (shouting, pouting, take it out on others, withdraw, silence, brooding, etc.)?
- We can always find a boat sailing away from where God wants us to go. Share a time when you thought you could ignore or run away from God. How did that go for you? Where did you ultimately end up?
- God sent a storm and a fish to grab Jonah's attention. He sometimes sends a “storm” to grab our attention, too. Share a time when God used a storm (past or present) to get through to you. What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?

### SCRIPTURE

- What message did God give to Jonah to take to the Ninevites (3:4) How did the Ninevites respond (3:5)?
- *Repentance* has been defined as a change of mind that results in a change in behavior. From what did the Ninevites repent (3:8)? What was the king's concern (3:9)? What was God's response? How does this story show God's patience, love, and mercy?
- In chapter 4, what lesson do you think God was trying to teach Jonah through the vine?
- What do you think God meant when he said the Ninevites could not tell their right hand from their left (4:11)?
- The story of Jonah ends abruptly. If you were Jonah, what ending would you like to write for this story?
- *Further Reading:* Read 1 Kings 19:1-7. How does Jonah's response compare with Elijah's response after confronting the prophets of Baal?