



Introduce the theme by saying: Our theme for this weekend is “Let’s Go!” Before we dig into our study, I want to point you toward another story for a moment.

There’s a story in the Bible in which God tells Abraham to take his son, Isaac, up to a mountain and sacrifice him. God tells Abraham, “GO to the region of Moriah.” So Abraham gets up early the next morning, starts packing up his family, and he goes. Period. God told him to go, so he does not hesitate.

How often do we know that God has called us to do something, but we hesitate? We seek confirmation, we ask friends for advice, and we ... wait. I would be willing to bet that there are some of you who know God has told you to go do something—talk to a friend about Jesus, serve someone, take a risk in your faith. But, for some reason, you are hesitating. This is your moment to take that first step toward doing what God is calling you to do. This is the weekend to declare that your life is not your own, that you will follow God wherever He has called you. That you will go beyond yourself and find joy in giving your life away for the sake of others.

During our Bible studies, we are going to look at three people whose stories are recorded in the Old Testament, and who God called to *go*. Each had a much different response. The first one said, “Here I am, I won’t go.” That is Jonah. Let’s turn to Jonah and discover why he refused to go.

But before we dig in, let’s open up our discussion with a fun question: Name a place you would love to be sent to and a place you would never want to be sent.

DIG INTO THE WORD

To begin our Bible study, we are going to all look at the Scripture we will be studying. Read through the passages below and mark the words or phrases that you think are important, or jot down notes

about what is being communicated. Write out any questions or thoughts you may have about the passage.

Jonah 1:1-3 (ESV)

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah 3:1-4:11

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger