

Sermon Title: Second Chances Help or Happen

Sermon Text: Jonah

Date: May 15, 2022

### Getting to Know You

1. Warmer weather is finally here! Share what you like to do to cool down on a scorching day.
2. Describe a time you deliberately did the opposite of what your parents or guardians asked you to do. What was the result? Explain any lessons you learned from your experience.

### Digging Deeper

3. Read Jonah 1:3 and Jonah 1:9. What did Jonah believe about God? How did his action in verse 3 contradict what he believed in verse 9? In your opinion, why do you think Jonah's belief did not match his action? When have your actions not matched what you believe about God?
4. Read Jonah 1:1-3, 1 Kings 17:1-6, and Jeremiah 1:4-10. What are the differences between these prophets' responses to God's calling? How would you respond if God called you to speak the Truth to a group of people?
5. Are there situations from which you wish to run? Are you harboring dreams of your own little Tarshish—a place where we disengage from the pressures and responsibilities of life? Do we imagine it to be a place free of problems? What does the message of Jonah have to say?

- Carefully read Jonah's prayer from Jonah chapter 2. As you read, think of the following questions. What attitude and mindset do you sense from Jonah? If you were in the belly of the fish, what would you have prayed?

Now read Psalm 34:18 and James 4:7-8. When have you felt the way Jonah did? How would you advise someone going through a dark season?

- In the sermon, we learned that "**When you turn from evil, God forgives.**" When has God given you a second chance? When have you ignored a second chance?

We also learned that "**You can run from God, but you can't hide from God.**" When have you tried to "run" from God—refusing to do something you know He's telling you to do? What "storms," then and now, bring you back?

- Where are you currently in Jonah's story? Are you running away from God, returning to God, obeying God out of obligation, or obeying God wholeheartedly?

## Next Steps

In light of this week's teaching and study, is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop, or keep doing?