

Rise

Jonah 1:1-3

April 28, 2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it so easy to forget the reality of Easter and keep it alive in your life?
2. Think about a situation where you took to heart something that someone said to you. What caused you to do so?
3. What images of God have you held in your spiritual journey? How did you come to have them? How did these change over the years? What would you say is your most dominant image today?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. In these opening verses of Jonah, the word contrasts are quite stark. Identify them and discuss the point that the author is trying to make with them.
2. What did Jonah try to accomplish by going to Tarshish? What may be wrong with his perception of Tarshish?
3. Being a prophet of God, Jonah would know better than to attempt to escape the omnipresent God. What, then, is he trying to run away from? What images of God did Jonah have that prompted him to do so?
4. Can you recall any other person in the Bible who attempted to run away from the presence of God? What catastrophe did they bring upon themselves and others when they tried to change the directions God set out for them? What lessons can you learn from these stories?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How have you ever tried to hide from God? What was it like? Why did you feel you needed to do this?
2. What images of God wrongly believed do you need to let go of? How will letting go of these enable you to live more freely in Christ?
3. What might be your Tarshish that keeps you from obeying God's voice? How can you change your directions to move toward your Nineveh?