

## **Fish Story Week 1 Questions**

### **Announcements:**

1. NextGen Family Fall Kick-Off August 12<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm at the Edgewood Soccer Field. Food, fellowship, and water games!
2. The yearly marriage retreat (Sept. 7-9) is available for signup. Check out vv.church for details.

### **Starter:**

1. Do you have a fishing story? Share it with us!

### **Study:**

1. Read Jonah 1:1-3. Jonah wasn't running away from Nineveh, but from God.
  - a. Jim gave us 3 reasons we run from God
    - i. To continue doing what we want to do.
    - ii. To hide our shame
    - iii. To avoid doing what God calls us to do
  - b. Which reason resonates with you the most and why?
2. God forgives even those who we believe don't deserve it.
  - a. Why is this such a struggle for us?
3. Jim shared that sometimes he uses his cell phone to distract him from what God has convicted him to do.
  - a. What is your distraction? (cell phone, relationship, activity, etc.?)
4. Read Jonah 1:4-10. Jonah knew that it was his sin that was the cause of the storm. "We underestimate the power of our sin or the effect it has on those around us."
  - a. Has someone else's sin affected you? How?
  - b. Has your sin affected someone else? How?
5. Read Jonah 1:11-17. Jonah deserved punishment and ultimately death for running from God. "Instead of death in the water God sent salvation" in the form of a large fish. If we were honest with ourselves, we to deserve punishment and ultimately death!
  - a. How has God saved you lately?

### **Gender Breakout:**

1. NextStep: Don't let your feeling of anger, doubt, or insecurity be an excuse to not go where God calls you. Choose God's Path!
  - a. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior?
    - i. If not, what is keeping you from accepting Jesus?
    - ii. If so, what calling are you running from?