JONAH
The Depths of Grace

CROSSWINDS
RUNNING FROM GOD

OCTOBER 19
JONAH 1:1-17

MAIN IDEA

Despite our stubborn rebellion, God shows us grace by running after us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share about a time when a parent, supervisor, or teacher held you to a higher standard than he held himself. How did you respond?

Have you ever found yourself holding others to higher standards than you hold yourself to? How did you realize you were doing that? Why do we sometimes do this?

> READ LUKE 15:11-15.

What was the younger son communicating to his father by asking for his share of the inheritance prior to his father's death? How would you feel if you were the father in this parable?

Why do you think the father gave the younger son what he asked for? What does that tell us about him?

Compare and contrast the rebellion of the younger son with Jonah's rebellion against God. How was their motivation in running from God similar? How was it different?

On Sunday we learned that God is present wherever we run. How was the Father present with the younger son even when he had run far away (vv. 16-19)? How did God make His presence known when Jonah ran away (see Jonah 1:11-17)?

How has God made His presence known in your life when you were far from Him?

Given how shamefully the younger son had treated his father, how do you expect to the father to treat him? What does the father do instead?

Both Jonah and the younger son were unable to save themselves from dire predicaments. What does this tell us about God? What does it tell us about ourselves?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

On Sunday we learned that "the grace God gives leads to worship. How has God been gracious to you? How will you respond to his grace this week?

Are there particular areas of your life where you've been tempted to think that God is absent? How might acknowledging God's presence in all areas of life help you to grow and change?

How can an understanding of the depth of God's love and grace affect the way that you pray? What is something that our group can pray about for you this week?