



## AWAKE THE CALL TO A RENEWED LIFE

### **Lesson 1: Return to God**

**Jonah 1.1-3; 3:1-5, 10**

**Background Scripture: Jonah 1**

**Icebreaker Question:** What is the best way to get someone's attention?

#### **Jonah 1:1-3**

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." 3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to

#### **Discussion Question #1**

- Why is it sometimes tempting to flee from God?

#### **Jonah 3:1-5**

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to 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, a three-day journey in extent. 4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

#### **Discussion Question #2**

- Have you ever benefited from a second chance?

#### **Jonah 3:10**

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.



### Discussion Questions #3,4

- What do God's actions toward Jonah and the Ninevites teach us about His character?
- How can our church be a safe and supportive place for returning to God?

### Live It Out

- **Be sensitive to God's voice.** Don't let yourself become numb toward God. Immerse yourself in bible study and prayer, asking God to help you be more sensitive to His voice.
- **Respond with obedience.** When you hear God telling you to do something in the days to come, do it. Repentance isn't necessary when we obey God's call in the first place.
- **Repentance when necessary.** None of us will obey perfectly. When you find yourself wandering from God, repent, turn away from your disobedience, and turn back to God.