Growth Group Discussion Guide

Go to concorddallas.org to join a growth group and learn more.

Read Jonah 1:1-12. The inescapable call of obedience. Has God ever told you to do something that you just did not want to do? Maybe it was to forgive somebody, to volunteer for something, or give up something that you were really attached to. How did you respond? What was Jonah's reaction to God's command? Have you ever tried to run away from what God was calling you to do? How did God react to your decision to run away from Him? Can we really escape God's call on our lives? What were some of the consequences of your disobedience? What consequences did Jonah have to endure when he chose to be disobedient?

Read Jonah 2. The regret of disobedience. How do you feel when you disobey God? What do you do in order to return back to God following a decision to disobey? What did Jonah do? Although God already knows how we will respond to Him, why is it important for us to acknowledge to God our true feelings about what he is asking us to do? How might this acknowledgment change our feelings and give us a heart to obey God? What did Jonah recognize about God in His prayer? What have you learned about God when you have made a decision to disobey His Word?

Read Jonah 2:10, 3:1-3. Sometimes God gives us another opportunity to obey Him. How did God respond to Jonah's prayer? Has God ever given you a second chance to obey Him after you have been disobedient? How did that make you feel? What was your response to God? What was Jonah's response to God? Although God is merciful, what are some blessings in obeying God the first time? Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to obey Him the first time? Have you made a decision to obey Him the first time? Explain.

Read Jonah 3. The lives of others depend on our obedience. Through Jonah's obedience he was able to save the lives of the people of an entire city. Have you ever thought about how your obedience to God affects those around you? Do you believe that others are counting on your obedience? In what ways? What would have happened if Jonah had remained disobedient to God? Would you have been able to live with the consequences of Jonah's disobedience if it were you? Why is it important to consider the consequences of failing to obey God? How might disobedience add stress to your life?

Taking It Home: How Will I Apply It: Identify one area in your life that you have been disobedient, and make the decision to obey God in this area. Commit to praying to God daily for strength to obey Him in this area. You may want to ask a trusted friend to hold you accountable in this area of your life. As you walk in obedience, watch God began to bless your life in ways you never imagined.

GREATER EXPECTATIONS SERIES

"Obeying God's Plan"

Genesis 6:22

Concord Church *Jan 22, 2012* *Pastor Bryan L. Carter*