**Growth Group Preparation Questions**

**For the week of: January 19, 2025**

**Sermon Title: Grace for the Runners**

**Big Idea:** God pursues and shows grace to people as they run away from God.

**Prepare:** Listen to the sermon (if you haven’t already), read Jonah 1, and spend a few minutes praying for your group.

**Connect**

When do you first remember hearing the story about "Jonah and the whale”?

**Discuss**

**HEAD: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

1. What stood out to you about this week's sermon?

1. Read Jonah 1 and Psalm 139:7-10 aloud as a group.
   1. How do Jonah and David understand God's presence differently?
   2. When have you tried to outrun God's presence?

1. Read Psalm 19:1-11 aloud as a group.
   1. In what ways has creation been a part of revealing the presence and character of God in your life?

**HEART: HOW DOES THIS CHANGE MY ATTITUDES AND AFFECTIONS?**

1. Jonah's disobedience created a storm that affected others. How has your disobedience ever caused storms for those around you?
   1. How might obedience to God bring about peace in your life and in your relationship with others?

1. We see God pursuing Jonah through a storm, the sailors with truth, and both with grace. How do you sense God pursuing you today?
   1. What is/has been your response to that pursuit?

1. God's grace calls each believer to have compassion for those around us. How can you show compassion towards those you might consider to be outside the reach of God's grace?

**HANDS: WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ASKING US TO DO?**

1. Almost all of us are "running" from God through the reluctance to submit part of our lives to Him. What part of your life can you submit to God's rule and run towards Him?

1. Last week, you wrote down 1-3 people who you want to see come to salvation in Jesus. Share those names with one other person in your G2 and ask them to commit to praying for those names as well.

**Serve and Share (S2) Reflection and Action**

A faithful follower of Jesus is action-oriented. We model the lifestyle of Jesus by giving our time, talents, and treasures. These are gifts from God to be used for His Kingdom work. Take some time in your group this week to share some of the ways you have been stirred to action and share one small step you may take in the coming weeks in response.