

WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE

MCA
The Church on the Hill

Sermon Outline

Key verses

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

James 1:19

Even when we run from him, God still pursues us

1. God will never leave you

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

Psalms 139:7-8

2. God can do great things through you

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Jonah 3:5

3. God is slow to anger

The Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, is slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7

JONAH'S ANGER

**JANUARY 5
DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Opening Thought

This month we will explore stories of biblical characters and how, in their darkest moments, God met with them. We all know someone who is suffering. There are seasons of anger, loneliness, despair and loss. Yet God never leaves us. Whether we are facing our own suffering or helping someone else, we are called to put our hope in God and allow him to direct our steps.

Ice breaker

- What is one thing you are looking forward to in 2025?

Dig Deeper

- Why do you think Jonah was angry?
- How has running from God led to struggles in your life?
- Read Jonah 2:2–9. How does Jonah's prayer from the belly of the whale speak to the God's nature or attributes?
- What stands out to you about his prayer?
- How does the fish vomiting up Jonah speak to the way God sometimes "saves" us?
- Has God ever done something for another person or group of people that made you angry? Why did you react that way?
- Would you, like Jonah, have trouble being enthusiastic about seeing certain people in the world experiencing God's mercy? A different religious or political group? Another nation?
- Read Exodus 34:6. How do each of God's attributes comfort or encourage you when you are at rock bottom?
- John shared three truths about God. Which of these is most meaningful to you?

Closing

Jonah does not have a happy, fairy-tale ending. It would have been great if it ended in Jonah 3:10 where it says, "When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened." But it doesn't. We do not know how Jonah responded to God, but the critical question is, how will you respond to God?