



**Crazy Ask Week 1 – God of the Crazy Ask
Spiritual Formation Guide**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

Jonah 1:1-3

"Nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen."

Jonah 4:1-3

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

Luke 6:32-35

Reflection Questions:

- What's one of the craziest things you've ever done?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God's Spirit speaking to you through the songs, the message, and being with the church?
- Read Jonah 1:1-3. What do you notice in these verses?
- Eddie challenged us to ask ourselves this question: **When God says go, will I say no?** Have you ever sensed God asking you to do something you didn't want to do? What was it and what was your response?
- We saw a map that showed how far Tarshish is from Ninevah. How far have you ever gone to avoid obeying God?
- Read Jonah 4:1-3. How does Jonah describe God?
- In Sunday's message, Eddie shared that "a person can fill a role for God, but lose touch with the heart of God." How does Jonah's story illustrate this sobering reality? How does it challenge you today?
- We should pause if we find ourselves upset at something that makes Jesus happy. Does anything come to mind that might be in that category for you?
- Eddie shared a few practical take-aways for us from Jonah's story:
 - Echoing God's view of right and wrong is an increasingly crazy ask.
 - The real measure of love is how you love those who are not your people. (Read Luke 6:32-35.)Which one challenges you today? Why?
- Take some time to reflect on the following question. Write down your thoughts. Take some time to be still and ask God to show you:

Where is your Tarshish? Where do you go to escape what God wants most for you?

Where is your place of escape from God's will for your life? Is it your workplace or career? Is that what keeps you too busy to pursue God's will? Is it your TV? Is it your retirement plan and your obsession with maximizing it? Is it a hobby? A prized possession? Is it a bar, or a boat, or a substance, or your obsession with your body, or with someone else's?

Take some time to talk honestly with God about what rises to the surface.

- The worship team sang a song, "Touch of Heaven" by David Funk. Listen to it this week and let the words guide your prayer and worship.

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at www.wschurch.org/resources. These resources can be purchased using the links or are available for a small donation at the Next Steps area on Sunday mornings.