

1. Excuse #1: Fear

- a) What did Jonah know about the inhabitants of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian kingdom? Nahum 1:1, 3:1-4
- b) How had the LORD already protected Israel from Assyrian aggression? 2 Kings 19:32-37
- c) Why would the prophet be controlled by fear after the LORD had shown His power to protect and deliver?
- d) Share a time when fear hindered you from engaging in a mission opportunity.
- e) How can we find deliverance from all our fears?

2. Excuses #2: Those people don't deserve salvation.

- a) How do the following verses reveal Jonah's faulty view of God?
 - i) Jonah 1:3
 - ii) Jonah 1:12
 - iii) Jonah 3:4 What is missing in Jonah's declaration?
 - iv) Jonah 3:10-4:4
- b) What are some faulty views of God that are common today that hold us back from being passionate about mission?

3. Excuse #3: It's too difficult.

- a) What challenges might have caused Jonah to say, "This mission assignment is too difficult for me?"
- b) What are some reasons people give today for refusing to accept a

mission assignment?

- i) Language barriers
- ii) Differences in culture
- iii) Feelings of inadequacy
- iv) Not willing to make great personal sacrifice
- c) What response to Jonah's half-hearted preaching demonstrated that his mission assignment was not too difficult for him if the LORD was present to bless? Jonah 3:5-9
- d) Share a mission assignment that seems impossible from your human perspective. What can we learn from the experience of Jonah?

4. Abandoning all excuses to avoid mission

- a) What enabled the prophet Isaiah to abandon all excuses to avoid mission? Isaiah 6:1-7
- b) Having received a revelation of the glory of God, and having experienced personal cleansing and healing, how did Isaiah respond to the appeal of the LORD to engage His mission? Isaiah 6:8
- c) What are some excuses you need to abandon so you can respond to the mission appeal of the LORD?
- d) What is your testimony as you have responded to the appeal of the LORD to join Him in His mission?

