

**“The Pious Prayers of Pagans:
Jonah and the Journey Outward (Part 3)
Psalm 96; Acts 11:1-18; Jonah 1:1-17**

1. Can you describe the differences between Jonah’s and the pagan sailors’ responses to God’s various initiatives in chapter 1? What is so surprising about this difference? What does this difference tell us about the “spirituality” of Jonah and the pagan sailors?
2. How could it be that an encounter with God makes one aware of their lack of holiness—even if God did not show up specifically in order to point that lack of holiness out? Have you had this experience in your own life? What do you think this experience tells us about God, about us, and about our relationship to God?
3. Who knows God better: Jonah or the sailors? Why? How could it be that the pagans become “prophets” to Jonah?
4. What should our posture toward the spirituality of our non-Christian neighbors be, according to this analysis of Jonah 1?
5. What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? Who is going to help you?