



## **Series Discussion Questions**

### **Series: SHAPE, Pt. 2 of 2 Discussions**

As we launch into 2013 together at Lake Forest, we are challenging everyone to get into SHAPE spiritually. To help in this, we are going to refocus on our four core strategic steps for getting to know Jesus more fully: Discover, Belong, Share and Go. By focusing on these four steps we pray it will help us all to pursue a better spiritual SHAPE.

#### **INTRODUCE IT**

As a kid, I have vivid memories of being told by my dad to go and do things that frankly, I just didn't want to do. One memory that sticks out above all the rest was the day he handed me some money and told me to walk to the store down the street from our house and purchase feminine supplies for my older sisters. As a 14 year old boy, there was nothing more embarrassing. The consequences of not obeying my dad though were much worse than the embarrassment I had to face. So I went.

Share as a group something that you remember having to go and do that you just despised going and doing. Maybe when you were younger. Maybe even recently. Something you knew you had to go and do but just didn't want to. Share the event and why you went anyway.

#### **STUDY IT**

Today we are going to look at two prophets in the Old Testament that were told by God to go and do something. Let's compare their responses.

#### **Read Hosea 1:2-3**

What did God tell Hosea to do and what was Hosea's response?

What would be your response to God if it was clear that he told you to go and do the same thing?

How do you think "the church" would respond and look at you if you went and married an adulterer and your kids turned out horrible? What would "the church" say about you?

Gomer, his wife, is then unfaithful to him and actually leaves him and becomes a prostitute and is then up for sale.

#### **Read Hosea 3:1-3**

Name all the reasons you can think through as to why you would not have done what the Lord told Hosea to do. Give scripture references if you can.

Why do you think Hosea does what the Lord ask in this situation?

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the hardest, how hard would this command be for you to follow?

Now, let's look at another prophet and a command that God gives him.

### **Read Jonah 1**

What is the command that God gives Jonah and what is Jonah's response?

Compare Jonah's reaction to the Lord's command and the reaction of the sailors to the Lord.

This chapter is an illustration of how life can be when we choose to disobey the Lord. Talk about all the symbolism in this passage of what life can be like when we choose to not go where the Lord calls us.

In the midst of all the turmoil with the sea, where do we see the mercy and grace of God?

In chapter 2 we see Jonah repenting and in chapter 3 he obeys the Lord and preaches against the wickedness of the Ninevites. As a result, the Ninevites repent and follow the Lord.

### **Read Jonah 4**

In these first verses we find out the reason why Jonah ran away. What is the reason?

What do we learn about God's heart in this chapter for those that don't know him?

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the hardest, how hard would this command be for you to follow? Do you think this would have been a harder command to follow than the one given Hosea?

### **USE IT:**

We see two examples of people being given a command from the Lord to GO. Hosea seems to have been given a much tougher assignment than Jonah yet it's Hosea who is obedient and Jonah that is not.

It's not the command to GO that comes from the Lord that determines obedience. It's our hearts condition. Jonah was angry and that led to selfishness.

Are there places God is calling you to be obedient that you realize the condition of your heart is keeping you from following? Share those places with the group.

Are there any ways that you recognize storms in your life because you are not choosing to follow what God is clearly calling you to do?

In response to this study and the sermons this week, what are steps you know that you need to take to be obedient to the Lord and stop running? What are places you are thankful that you obeyed the Lord?