**Second Chances – Jonah - Sometimes we want to run away 02/02/25**

**Day 1: Hearing God's Voice**

**Scripture: Jonah 1:1-2**

"The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.'"

**Reflection:**  
God is a God who speaks. Just as He spoke to Jonah, He desires to speak to us today. Are you listening for His voice? Sometimes, what God asks of us may not align with our desires or comfort zones. Reflect on how you respond when God calls you to step out in faith.

**Prayer:**  
Lord, open my ears to hear Your voice. Help me to be attentive and willing to follow Your guidance, even when it challenges me. Amen.

**Day 2: Running from God**

**Scripture:** Jonah 1:3  
"But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish."

**Reflection:**  
Jonah's initial response to God's call was to run in the opposite direction. Consider areas in your life where you might be running from God's will. Are there commands or promptings from God that you are avoiding?

**Prayer:**  
Father, reveal to me the areas where I am running from You. Give me the courage to face them and the strength to turn back to You. Amen.

**Day 3: The Consequences of Disobedience**

**Scripture:** Jonah 1:4  
"Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up."

**Reflection:**  
Disobedience to God often leads to storms in our lives. These storms can be God's way of getting our attention and drawing us back to Him. Reflect on any "storms" you might be experiencing and consider if they are a result of running from God.

**Prayer:**  
God, help me to see the storms in my life as opportunities to return to You. Teach me to trust in Your discipline and to seek Your will above my own. Amen.

**Day 4: Rationalizing Sin**

**Scripture:** Jonah 1:12  
"'Pick me up and throw me into the sea,' he replied, 'and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.'"

**Reflection:**  
Jonah knew he was the cause of the storm, yet he had rationalized his disobedience. We often make excuses for our sins, convincing ourselves that our actions are justified. Identify any areas where you might be rationalizing sin and ask God for the strength to confront them.

**Prayer:**  
Lord, forgive me for the times I have rationalized my sin. Help me to see clearly and to choose obedience over excuses. Amen.

**Day 5: Turning Back to God**

**Scripture:** Jonah 2:1-2  
"From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: 'In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.'"

**Reflection:**  
Even in the depths of his disobedience, Jonah turned back to God, and God heard his prayer. No matter how far we have strayed, God is always ready to welcome us back. Reflect on God's grace and His willingness to give us second chances.

**Prayer:**  
Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace and mercy. I turn back to You today, seeking Your forgiveness and guidance. Help me to walk in Your ways and to trust in Your unfailing love. Amen.

This devotional is designed to encourage reflection and spiritual growth, helping you to draw closer to God and align your life with His will.