



PLEASANT HILLS  
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

*Week of Sunday, September 13*

*Questions with asterisks are meant to be answered by everyone in the group.  
(typically, the icebreaker question and the final question of the evening)*

*Do not feel pressure to answer every question. Be aware of the group's momentum.  
Leave enough time for prayer at the end of your time together.*

**Icebreaker**

**\*\*What is one meaningful, memorable moment from your summer?\***

**Questions for the 2020 Small Group Theme**

*Segway into more meaningful discussion with a brief opening prayer.*

*Then, read the following modernized version of Hebrews 10:19-25.*

So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body

So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.<sup>1</sup>

1. This year, Pleasant Hills Church is emphasizing the importance of consistently gathering together for worship and small groups -- no matter what form that might take. In what *new* ways have you experienced the value of small groups or friendship during this unique moment in history?
2. Name a few difficult hurdles we might face this year that could prevent us from gathering to encourage one another in the faith, both external and internal hurdles.  
As each hurdle is named, consider ways that your group might overcome that hurdle to remain consistent in the year ahead.

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 10:19-25, The Message

## Questions for the Sermon Series, *Deep Grace: The Book of Jonah (Part 1)*

Read this passage from Jonah to provide the context for the discussion questions that follow.

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.”

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”<sup>2</sup>

3. If you were able to listen to this week’s sermon, did any specific part catch your attention, encourage you, or challenge you in an unexpected way?
4. The Lord called the prophet, Jonah, to “preach against” the great city of Ninevah because of its wickedness. It is likely that we have seen *unhealthy* ways that Christians preach against wickedness in our world. As a group, discuss *healthy* ways for Christians to engage the wickedness of our culture -- interpersonally or publicly.  
*Avoid potential rabbit holes about politics or hot button issues. This question focuses more on how to engage others, not developing a list of the evils within our society.*

Potential topics to consider (in no particular order):

- a. How is this different than simply complaining about particular issues, events, or people?
  - b. How does the Good News of Jesus inform our message about wickedness?
  - c. How do we speak against wickedness in a culture that values political correctness?
5. Jonah disobeyed God by running in the opposite direction. The reason for Jonah’s disobedience comes later in the book. For now, consider common reasons for people to disobey God. What do you think are some of the top reasons people disobey God, ignore God, or deny God altogether?
  6. Jonah was so comfortable in his disobedience that he slept calmly in the midst of a great storm. How can we avoid becoming too comfortable in our own disobedience?
  7. **\*\*What part of our small group discussion this evening stands out to you the most?\***  
Challenge: reflect on this topic further during the week. Find ways to faithfully, actively respond.

*Take prayer requests and close in prayer. Allow time for small group members to pray aloud.*

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<sup>2</sup> Jonah 1:1-6, NIV