

**Flatirons Ink: Marked – Jonah Chapter 1**  
**Weekend Discussion Questions**  
**February 19-20, 2011**

**Community:**

1. What's the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions tattoos?
2. Do you have any tattoos, and if so, what are the stories behind them?

**Core:**

1. In your experience is it true that everyone has a story that has marked their life?
2. What did you know or believe to be true about the Bible story of Jonah prior to this weekend?
3. Read Jonah 1:1-3. Why might Jonah have opted to get on a boat to Tarshish rather than go to Ninevah and preach as God commanded?
4. Have you ever had an experience where you knew God was sending you in one direction, but you ran the opposite way? How did that work out?
5. Verse 3 says Jonah "sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord." What might Jonah's reasons have been for running from God? What reasons have you found in your life for running from God?
6. Read Jonah 1:4-11. In sending the storm, was God punishing Jonah? Was he punishing the sailors for Jonah's disobedience? What is the distinction between punishment and discipline?
7. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like Jonah, that God was chasing after you to get you back on the right track?
8. What did you think of Christian's story? Can you see a similarity to the story of Jonah?
9. In Jonah 1:17, it says that God "provided" a great fish to swallow Jonah. What did God want to accomplish by Jonah being in the fish? Have there been times when hitting rock bottom has turned out to produce the best outcome?
10. Do you believe that there is nothing that has touched your life that hasn't first passed through the fingers of God?

**Challenge:**

1. This week, memorize Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Repeat it every day and ask God to help you see His hand in all the events that mark you life.

