# Sunday 9th February – Connect Group Notes

## ‘The World’s Storms

**Read Jonah 1:1-4**

1. **God and the Storm:** How do you feel about God sending a storm after Jonah as he runs away? Do you think this is how God typically works in the world today? Why or why not?
2. **Natural Consequences of Sin:** Where do you see the natural consequences of sin in the world—either in personal choices or in broader society? How does this compare to what happens in Jonah’s story?
3. **Jonah and the Prodigal Son:** In what ways does this part of Jonah’s story remind you of the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)? What are the similarities and differences between the two?
4. **Deceptive ‘Green Lights’:** Why might Jonah have thought his plan to run from God was working? What ‘green lights’—seemingly smooth circumstances—did he receive? How can we also mistake an easy path as a sign that we’re making the right choice, even when we’re running from God?
5. **The Impact on Others:** Why is it important to notice that the sailors are caught up in Jonah’s storm? How do our choices—especially when we disobey God—affect those around us?
6. **Seeing Purpose in Storms:** What does this passage teach us about how we should view the storms and challenges we face in life? How does Romans 8:28 (or 8:18-39) shape our perspective on difficulties?
7. **Being ‘Storm Ready’:** How can we prepare ourselves spiritually to face life’s inevitable challenges? What are some practical ways we can strengthen our faith so that we remain steadfast when storms come?

**Closing Reflection:**

Jonah’s story reminds us that disobedience carries consequences, while the Prodigal Son assures us of God’s mercy in welcoming us back. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection—confessing areas where you may be resisting God and rededicating yourself to following Him. You might also invite the group to share if there’s anything they’d like prayer for or accountability in.