

**Group Members:**

**What community needs or concerns have you discussed so far?**

**Are there any ministries or anyone presently reaching out to these areas of need?**

**How could your group contribute to the efforts to help?**

**Are there any needs that are not being met?**

**What kinds of things could your group possibly do to address unmet needs?**

**How do you expect God to direct your decisions as to what to do and what action to take?**

**\*Commit to pray together as a group over the next 3-4 weeks. Ask God to direct your decisions as a team and to give you a plan of how he wants you to work.**

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21 APRIL  
SUNDAY  
2019



Extend the KINGDOM

## Small Group Discussion Guide

*Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. What are you looking forward to this spring? Any spring projects on the horizon?*

- I. We recently studied together the book of Romans. As a small group, we'll take the next four weeks to preview Pastor Jim's spring series, entitled "May Day: Overcoming Discouragement, Doubt and Despair".  
Look for a minute at the word *discouragement*. What kinds of things discourage you (and thus cause you to fear)? Be specific. How well do you tend to deal with your personal fears? Any examples?
- II. Turn to the story of [Jonah](#) in the Old Testament. What do you remember about Jonah? Why do many people tend to doubt his story? Do you?  
Read [Jonah 1:1-3](#). What do we know about Ninevah in Jonah's day? (Note [Jonah 3:8](#))  
How might this explain his response to God's call on his life?  
When does God call Christians to do hard or even dangerous things today, do they ever react like Jonah? How have you responded to God's call on your life? Have you ever responded in fear?
- III. Now turn to and read [Genesis 20:1-11](#). In a moment of fear and weakness, Abraham lies about his wife. Does this story surprise you? Why or why not? What was Abraham's motivation for lying? Have you ever been tempted to lie in order to save yourself (or salvage your public image)? Any examples? Explain how lying should be a distress call (May Day) for us when we catch ourselves doing it. What does lying show us about our faith in God at that moment?

"May Day" is an international distress call for help. During the next four weeks, we are going to look at some of the biblical characters, in distress or danger and notice how they respond. There are lessons for us to learn as we face dangers, difficulties and even death. Unlike Abraham and Jonah, let's ask God to strengthen our resolve to trust him, even when everything around us looks discouraging or doubtful.

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