

# Jonah Series Week 3

## Discussion Guide



### Icebreaker

Have you ever had to have a conversation you really did not want to have? What made it difficult? How did it turn out?

### Read

Take turns reading Jonah 3:1-10. (Optional: Have your group read each passage in two different versions. Then, have them retell the story in their own words. Follow this up by reading the passage and correcting any omissions or mistakes. This solidifies the story in their minds and lets them realize they can use it in their own words when needed.)

### Discuss

In the opening of this chapter, we see a powerful moment where God doesn't just save Jonah from the sea; He restores his purpose. God's "second calls" often lead us back to the very places we originally tried to avoid, proving that our past failures don't have to disqualify us from our future obedience.

- **In verse 1, God speaks to Jonah a second time. What does this reveal about God's character?**
- **What might Jonah have been feeling when he received this second call from God?**
- **Why do you think we sometimes believe our past mistakes disqualify us from being used by God?**
- **What are some reasons we hesitate to obey God's direction in our lives?**

The response of the Ninevites is one of the most dramatic turnarounds in history. It wasn't because of a long, flashy presentation, but because of a simple message that met a humble heart. It shows us that true change happens when we stop making excuses and start taking action.

- **How does it encourage you to know that you don't need "perfect" faith or all the answers to start moving toward God?**
- **When the King repented, the whole city followed. Where have you seen one person's decision to "do the right thing" change the atmosphere of a family, a workplace, or a community?**

Nineveh represented the last place Jonah wanted to go. It was uncomfortable, messy, and filled with people he didn't particularly like. Our "Nineveh" is often a person, group, or task that we have been "running away" from because it feels too difficult or undeserving of our time.

- **Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does the truth that God "does not want anyone to be destroyed" challenge the way we view the people we find most difficult to deal with?**

### Application

Often times we treat repentance like an apology to make us feel better. Repentance is a change of direction. It is turning away from sin and turning toward God. Read 2 Chronicles 16:9.

- **Tarshish was the opposite direction of Nineveh. It was the "easy" route. Is there an area of your life where you are currently choosing comfort, silence, or avoidance because it's easier than being obedient?**
- **Who is your Nineveh? Sometimes Nineveh isn't a person, but a specific action. What is one thing you know God has been nudging you to do that you are currently putting off?**
- **If repentance is a change of direction, what is the literal, physical move you need to make this week? (accepting Jesus as your savior, forgiveness, making a phone call, etc.)**

### Prayer

Spend time in prayer thanking God for His continuous mercies and asking Him to reveal where you need to repent, who your Nineveh is and the courage to obey.