

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Jonah*Chapter 3: A Portrait of Repentance***OVERVIEW**

We have to read Jonah in context of the whole story of the Bible – it’s not a random moralistic tale haphazardly placed in the middle of a disconnected book. Jonah is part of a larger story, God’s story as it’s told in God’s word. With that in mind, we see that Jonah is not simply about a disobedient prophet and big fish. Jonah shows us God’s sovereign mercy and grace that overcomes our rebellion for the glory of his name among the nations. In short, God’s boundless compassion swallows up our prejudice for his glory, our gladness and our neighbors good.

APPLY // JONAH 2

1. Read Jonah 1-2.
2. What does Jonah 2 tell you about the character of God? Identify specifics from the text. How does that encourage you?
3. In this prayer, Jonah remembers the Lord and then acts via prayer. Why is it important to act on that which is remembered rather than to just think about it?
4. What does Jonah 2 tell you about the fickleness of humanity? How does that encourage you?
5. Why is it encouraging to realize/remember/rehearse that “Salvation belongs to the Lord!”?
6. Ask few willing group members share their testimony of how God saved them. Celebrate God’s saving grace together. (Note: It may be helpful to ask a few CG members *beforehand* if they are willing to share their testimony so they can be prepared).

STUDY // JONAH 3

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Jonah 3.
2. Contrast Jonah’s behavior in 3:1-3 with 1:1-3. What causes the difference in Jonah?
3. Notice the words “the second time.” What does this tell us about God’s posture toward Jonah? Toward the Ninevites?
4. What was Jonah’s message? How does this message “speak” to us today?
5. Why did God give Nineveh forty days?
6. What do you notice about the people’s response?
7. What does it mean to repent? What does true repentance look like in our lives? What are some signs of false repentance?
8. How does God respond to the Nineveh’s repentance? What does this tell you about the importance of repentance?

9. How does knowing that no one is beyond God's redemptive reach shape your confidence in approaching and executing the Great Commission?
- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Where do you need God's grace in your life? How has he "run" to you to show you this grace?