

JONAH: Week 1 – The Rebellion

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Jonah appears in II Kings 14:25 as a prophet in the territory of Zebulun in northern Israel. He witnessed firsthand the restorative compassion of God that was extended to His wayward people. As we know, God called Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh. Nineveh was a major city of the Assyrians who were known for being cruel and warlike. Throughout the book of Jonah, we see evidence of God's grace and His love for all people.

Tell the story – Jonah 1 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God invites us to join Him on mission; God's presence is always with us (Psalm 139:7-10); God does not force us to follow His will; God is all powerful; God is very patient with us; God desires for everyone to come to faith in Him (I Timothy 2:3-4); God is the Creator of the world; God's Word commands us to listen and obey; God will equip us with what we need to accomplish His work; even in our rebellion, God doesn't desert us; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I don't always think that God's ideas are good ideas; I can foolishly think that I can run to where God can't see me (Proverbs 15:3); even in my disobedience, God can be glorified (v16); I sometimes forget that it is a privilege to be a servant of the Most High God; sometimes I pray only out of desperation; it is possible to be out of the will of God and experience circumstances that appear to be working on my behalf; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Have you ever had a wrong attitude about God's will because you thought what God wanted was impossible? If so, what was the thing that seemed impossible to you?
2. Jonah did not want to see God's mercies extended to his enemies. Do you?

Assign next week's passage – Jonah 2 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

JONAH: Week 1 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Discipleship can be messy. Lead your Grow Group with honesty about your shortcomings. Our shortcomings do not disqualify us from God's love. The key to every meeting is that you model authenticity and transparency with your Grow Group. As you walk through the scripture, be open about your struggles and allow the group to support you as you also seek to encourage them. In doing so, you are modeling what it means to have a relational environment that seeks to guide one another in following Jesus.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

If your group could use a few more people, check out these ideas for growing your group.

- Encourage your group members to invite someone to come with them next week. Suggest they reach out to a neighbor, friend, or co-worker.
- Hang out at the Next Steps Display after services on Sunday morning and talk to prospective group members.
- Go to worship service a few minutes early and chat with those around you. Invite them to your group this week.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:32

We are all a mess. The truth of Romans 3:23 applies to our lives after salvation just as much as before we knew Christ. We are all sinners who have no right to hold ourselves in higher standing than anyone else. The religious leaders of Jesus' day viewed themselves as more righteous because they kept the law. This view of righteousness was challenged when they asked Jesus why He joined Matthew and his questionable friends for dinner. Jesus' answer tests our view of what it means to be righteous. Those fit to follow Jesus were not the ones who pretended to have life all together, but the ones who admitted their life was messy.

Reflect upon the calling of Matthew in Luke 5:27-32 and consider:

- ☐ Is your righteousness rooted in your actions, things you either do or don't do?
- ☐ Are you honest with God in confessing your sins?
- ☐ Are you honest with others close to you in confessing your sins?