

JONAH: Week 3 – Nineveh Repents

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.]*

Chapter 2 of Jonah is packed almost completely with a prayer connected to Jonah's experiences in the belly of the great fish. The primary tone of the prayer is one of thankfulness for God's salvation. Even as Jonah reflected on the seriousness of his situation, he still felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude to God. Jonah had cried out to God, and God had answered. Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Tell the story – Jonah 3 *[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 doesn't desert us during our rebellion (Hebrews 13:5); God has called us to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others (Matthew 28:19-20); God gives us the words to say at the very moment we need them (Luke 12:12); God calls us to obedience, living by faith (II Corinthians 5:17); God calls us to repentance (Acts 3:19); God works through us, giving us the desire and power to do what pleases Him (Philippians 2:13); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I can be stiff-necked, refusing to follow the Lord's leadership for my life (Acts 7:51); my heart is joyful when I allow the Lord to use me for His glory; I can enjoy an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus; I can be forgiven by a gracious and loving God, but still experience the painful consequences of my sin; I can faithfully share my faith with others, but it is the Lord who draws them to a relationship with Him (John 6:44); 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. God never deserted Jonah, even in Jonah's rebellion. What evidence of this promise have you personally seen and experienced? How does this truth bring you comfort?
2. Have you ever seen someone cruel and hardhearted quickly turn to the Lord?

Assign next week's passage – Jonah 4 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

JONAH: Week 3 – 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]*

Prayer should be an extremely important aspect of every Grow Group time. Here are some tips on facilitating meaningful prayer in your group:

Model It – Be a praying leader. When you pray, be direct, honest, and rely on God's power.

Keep It Safe – Don't call on someone unless you have asked permission first. Don't expect people to pray every session. Avoid circle prayer and use a popcorn style.

Value Prayer - Use different methods for prayer. You can have people pray their own prayer requests. You can assign people to pray for prayer requests as they are given. After someone shares something during group that requires prayer, feel free to stop then and pray or pray for that item as you close the session in prayer.

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

It is extremely important to know your group members, beyond a mere surface level. The more you know, the more you will be able to help mentor and guide them. Here are a few suggestions of things that you should discover about them:

Where did they grow up? What is their heritage? What was life like for them growing up?

Who was the most influential person in their life? What matters most to them?

As you listen to them during group, how do they view God and His Word? Ask them where they see God at work in their life.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

"The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed." Isaiah 50:4

Do you ever feel like you are in a rut? Have you lost concern about things that you once cared deeply about? Do your recent actions lack love? I wanted to share these words with you today to encourage you to remember to spend time in God's Word daily. He is Sovereign and His Word sustains the weary. If we come to Him with an open heart, we will quickly learn that His Word is alive and brings about transformation. If we listen, just as Isaiah 50:4 promises, He will instruct us!