

Read verse 3 and verse 10 again. We do not live in a vacuum – our actions affect others. What lives were affected by Jonah’s obedience to God’s second chance call?

What would have happened if Jonah had not obeyed?

Read Matthew 28:19-20. How can our obedience or disobedience to this command affect the lives of others?

God was concerned for the people of Nineveh – he’s concerned for the people of our community as well. Compare your concern for your community with Jonah’s concern for Nineveh. Compare your concern for your neighbours with God’s love for them. Is God calling you to say something, or do something in our community?

Close in prayer

Pray for each other as we consider people around us who need to experience the mercy of God. Pray that God would give us a love and burden for these people.



JONAH

God’s Merciful Steadfast Love Growth Group Study Guide

Week 4

25 September 2022

Jonah 3: 1-10

Series Overview:

Jonah is the central character in the Book of Jonah, in which God commands him to go to the city of Nineveh to prophesy against it for their great wickedness against him. However, Jonah instead attempts to run from God by going in the opposite direction and sailing towards Tarshish. The main message from this book is God's merciful, steadfast love. Jonah was a prophet, and even though he had let God down in numerous ways, he was still forgiven because God showed him unlimited love and compassion. Through the five weeks of this sermon series, our prayer is that we, as imperfect people may also experience God’s amazing mercy and love, not through our obedience, but through God’s grace in Christ.

Summarize the story of Jonah so far (Ch.1 and 2)

Read Jonah 3: 1-10 (Note: To wear sackcloth and sit in ashes was an ancient middle eastern demonstration of remorse and repentance.)

What stands out to you in Ch. 3?

Read Jonah 1: 1 and compare to Jonah 3: 1

What is happening here?

Think about a time you got a second chance even though you didn't deserve it, for example, a warning instead of a traffic ticket, or the opportunity to re-take a test. How did you feel?

How might Jonah have felt when God gave him the call to go to Nineveh the second time? What did he do differently this time?

How did the people of Nineveh respond to the message Jonah spoke to them? (See verses 5-6). What did they expect to happen because of their actions (verse 9)?

In today's sermon we talked about how the Ninevites responded:

- **Immediately (v.3-5)**
- **Wholeheartedly (v.5-8)**
- **Changed Lives (v.8-9)**

Comments on each of these aspects, and what it means for our relationship with God, and for those around us.

Read verse 10. God seems to have changed his mind about the action he had planned to take against Nineveh? What caused this change of plan? What does this say about how God relates with his people?

This action of God in v.10 is generally referred to as 'mercy'. How would you define 'mercy'? Compare mercy to other qualities such as 'grace' and 'compassion'. Think about this in terms of what Christ has done for us. E.g. 1 Peter 2: 9-10.