

GROUP DISCUSSION SHEET

Beyond capacity | Week 3 | Nov 17, 2024

Scripture and Big Idea

Jonah 3 | God's radical grace pursues every heart, even the ones we've written off.

Questions for Connection *(Offer these to help the group become comfortable and connected)*

1. What are some of your happiest Thanksgiving memories?
2. When have you received a "second chance" from God or from another?

Questions for Study *(Fact questions get people reading the Bible. Application questions get people talking. Both are needed.)*

Warm up: Watch the Jonah Bible Project together. [Overview Video on Jonah](#) What are some main themes? Was there a question in the Live it Out that you would like to discuss further?

Sermon Principles: #1 God's grace transforms human hearts, not human effort. #2 God's grace is realized when we believe God. #3 God's grace disrupts our ideas of justice.

Read Jonah 3

1. It is clear that Jonah was only to bring the message God gave him. What was the message? Can the message of coming judgment still turn people to God today? Why is it not often spoken?
2. What could the number 40 communicate in the Bible? (Gen 7:4, Ex 24:18, Nu 13:25, Amos 2:10, Matt. 4:1-3) Why were the Ninevites given 40 days? How does God show his patience now? (2 Peter 3:9)
3. How does the size of the city impact the story? What does it indicate about Jonah's courage and God's transforming power?
4. The people of Nineveh respond by fasting and wearing sackcloth. Was this just an effort to escape consequence or was it true repentance or both? What can we learn from their response? When has God pursued you when you felt undeserving or distant?
5. How did the King respond when he heard the message? How does leadership play a role in repentance and reform within a community? Where do you have a leadership role and how can you influence spiritual change there?
6. How does this story challenge our understanding of who "deserves" mercy? When have you thought someone or some group didn't deserve God's grace? Is there anyone who does deserve God's grace?
7. How did God respond when they turned from their evil and violence? What does that tell you about God's character? How do you balance the tension between justice and mercy?
8. How does the story of the good samaritan (Luke 10:27-35) show the same theme of radical grace? Who do you need to show this kind of radical grace?

"Go to" for any text

1. What is your biggest take away from this lesson?
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. How will you pray differently as a result of what you learned?
4. What one change will you make in your life from this lesson?
5. What is a key verse for you from this text?
6. So what? Why is this passage important?

Questions to ask Jesus *(Offer one of these for personal reflection before your group prayer time)*

1. Ask Jesus, "Who needs to experience God's radical grace through me today?"
2. Ask Jesus, "What practical steps do I need to take to embody this radical grace?"