

JONAH

THE GOD THAT PURSUES YOU

Week #3: Jonah

Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you."

This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city:

"No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us."

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:1-10 (NLT)

What can I learn from Jonah Chapter 3?

1. God gives Jonah and me _____ . (v.1-2)
- Who or what has my _____ ?

2. God loves everyone, including the most _____. (v.3-4)
 - To whom or where might God be _____?
3. Don't doubt how God might already be working and what he can do if _____. (v.4-9)
 - What might God be asking me to _____?
4. Your _____ might be your biggest _____. (v.10)
 - Will I let God _____ and _____ my past, my pain, and my problems?

Discussion Questions

1. Have there been instances when, like Jonah, it was difficult for you to follow through with what God is asking you to do? Share those experiences and why it might've been difficult for you to take a step of obedience.
2. Share a personal experience when you might have felt God giving you a second (third, fourth, etc.,) chance. How did you respond to that second chance gift?
3. Who is in your circle of family or friends that you feel could use a second chance? How can you practically extend grace to that individual?

Recommended Resources

- *Running from Mercy: Jonah and the Surprising Story of God's Unstoppable Grace*, by Anthony Carter
- *Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God's Mercy*, by Timothy Keller

NLT (New Living Translation)

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Jonah 3:1-10 (NLT)

What can I learn from Jonah Chapter 3?

1. God gives Jonah and me **second chances**. (v.1-2)
 - Who or what has my **unreserved yes**?
2. God loves everyone, including the most **messed up**. (v.3-4)
 - To whom or where might God be **sending me**?
3. Don't doubt how God might already be working and what he can do if **we obey**. (v.4-9)
 - What might God be asking me to **say or do**?
4. Your **pain** might be your biggest **platform**. (v.10)
 - Will I let God **heal** and **use** my past, my pain, and my problems?

Discussion Questions

1. Have there been instances when, like Jonah, it was difficult for you to follow through with what God is asking you to do? Share those experiences and why it might've been difficult for you to take a step of obedience.
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