

## The Gospel According to Jonah (3 of 4)

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, May 21st 2023**



**Sermon Series:** The Gospel According to Jonah

**Sermon Title:** The God of Mercy Goes Before You

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 52:12; Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:32; Titus 3:3-7

**Sermon Focus:** Jonah is given a second chance. This time he goes to Nineveh, but he clearly isn't happy about it. Jonah can only manage a once-sentence sermon. But it doesn't matter, because the God of mercy has gone before him and the people of Nineveh (including the animals!) adopt a posture of humility and repentance. In the third message of our series, Pastor David invites us to let God's mercy lead the way.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by telling a story of how God went before his wife in witnessing to a young black man in her study-group. He was from the projects in southcentral, Los Angeles. So, two people with different color of skin, from different parts of the country, with very different backgrounds. And here was Lanna alone in her car with him as she took him to get a binder from his dorm room. She heard God telling her to share her faith with him. She did and Kenny accepted Christ! Have you ever experienced God going before you in a scary situation where you were surprised that he had already been at work?
2. The Neo-Assyrian empire were brutal conquerors. They crucified, impaled, and flayed their enemies. And when they defeated a people, they would march them back to Assyria with hooks through their noses, lips, and jaws. This was the evil empire that threatened Israel's existence, and it was the hated enemy of Jonah. Can you sympathize with Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh? Now be honest, do you have enemies like this? What about our country's enemies? How do you feel knowing that God is willing to forgive our worst enemies?
3. Read Jonah 3:1-10 together. Reflect on some of the details in this chapter that Pastor David highlighted in his message on Jonah going to Nineveh. Did you learn anything or notice something new that you found insightful or helpful? What challenges or encourages you about this passage? What does it say about God and his mercy? How do you see the Jesus-looking God in this chapter?
4. In Luke 11:32, Jesus mentions how Nineveh repented of their sins. It's clear that Jesus' audience could not see how he was the fulfillment of the OT, particularly of the story/message in Jonah. Jesus was the opposite of Jonah because Christ was faithful and obedient. How else do you see Jonah as an "inverted" Jesus? And how do you see Jesus embodying the God revealed in the story of Jonah?
5. Read Titus 3:3-7 together. Also, read Romans 2:1-11. What do these passages say about our own sinfulness and God's willingness to show us mercy? Does it help you to show mercy and kindness to others when you think of the mercy that God has shown you? Also, how can we live with a continual awareness of God's mercy so that we can love our enemies well? What practices can help us do this?
6. Finally, close in prayer for your enemies and for those in your life who need the Lord. Please be specific and name them as you lift them up to God.