



Week 3  
Discipleship Study  
Questions



# Jonah

Jonah isn't just a prophet on the run — he's a faithful insider whose vision of God is too small. He loves grace when it benefits him, but resists grace when it reaches those he believes deserve judgment. In a culture marked by tribalism, fear, and moral superiority, Jonah confronts the church with a searching question: do we love God's mercy, or only the version of God that supports our identity and comfort?

This series invites the church to examine:

- How we define who deserves grace
- How we respond when God forgives those we resent
- How our theology of justice, mercy, and mission shapes our hearts
- Whether our faith reflects God's compassion or our own boundaries

Jonah confronts a faith that loves grace when it saves us, but resists grace when it saves others. God's unanswered question still echoes today: **“Should I not care about that great city?”**

## **Read the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Read the passage from two or three different translations.

*Group:* Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

## **Speak the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

*Group:* Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

## **Understand the Scripture:**

*Individual or Group:* Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

## **Dig Deeper into the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

*Group:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

# Small Group Guidelines

## **This is a Safe Group**

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

## **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

## **Listen**

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

## **No Rescuing or Fixing**

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

## **Use "I" Statements**

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

## **Don't Over-Talk**

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

## **Fight for Relationship**

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

## Week 3

**Background:** Warnings rarely feel like kindness in the moment. Most of us instinctively resist correction, assuming it means rejection or punishment. Yet throughout Scripture we see a different pattern—God often warns not to condemn, but to invite change. In Jonah 3, a city known for violence receives a message that sounds severe, yet becomes an unexpected doorway to mercy. This passage challenges us to consider how we respond when truth confronts us, and whether we are as open to mercy for others as we are for ourselves.

**Read:** *Jonah 1:17-2:10*

### **Discovery Questions:**

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

### **Digging Deeper:**

What differences do you notice between Jonah's response to God and Nineveh's response to God?

Jonah's message to Nineveh is brief and direct. What does the simplicity of his warning reveal about the power of God's word rather than the messenger?

The people of Nineveh respond quickly and collectively. What actions in the text show genuine repentance rather than mere regret?

Verse 10 says God “saw what they did.” Why might visible change matter in addition to inward belief?

How can it be difficult to celebrate mercy extended to others—especially those we feel don’t deserve it?

What does God’s decision to warn before acting reveal about His priorities? How do justice and mercy appear together in this passage rather than opposing each other?

***End this time with a prayer.***

*Heavenly Father, You are patient and compassionate, speaking truth to us not to shame us but to draw us closer. Give us humble hearts that are willing to listen when You confront us and courage to change when You lead us in a new direction. Help us to rejoice in the mercy You extend to others just as freely as we receive it ourselves. Shape our hearts to reflect Your compassion and Your justice. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*