



Week 2  
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 2

**Background:** Jonah 2 captures a moment many of us recognize: being rescued by God before we are fully changed by God. From inside the fish, Jonah prays a prayer that is sincere and grateful—but still incomplete. This chapter invites us to reflect on how grace meets us in distress and patiently continues its work of transformation.

**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:**

Who does Jonah attribute his circumstances to in verse 3? What does this suggest about how Jonah understands God's role in what's happening?

What does Jonah *not* say in this prayer? Are there things you might expect to hear that are absent?

Jonah speaks a lot about being rescued, but very little about why he needed rescue. Why do you think that matters in the context of the story?

Can you think of ways someone might genuinely thank God for grace while still resisting deeper change?

How does this passage reshape how you think about patience—both God's patience with us and our patience with others?

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

*Heavenly Father, thank you for rescuing us from our distress, even when we were still stuck in our own ways. You hear our most desperate prayers and we can come to you freely and honestly. Remind us of that, Lord, even when it feels like our hearts aren't exactly in the right place. You still hear us and You still listen. Reveal to us the places where Your grace has not yet reshaped us and give us the courage to face those places – to be open to surrender, correction, and change as You continue Your transforming work in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*