

Jonah – 3:1-10

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”*

In this text today we see Jonah finally following God’s command to go to Nineveh. He has been disobedient to God and been disciplined by God through the belly of the great fish. After being vomited onto the dry ground we see God’s judgment and salvation. The word of the Lord comes to Jonah the second time and he arises and goes to Nineveh. Surprisingly there is a time of repentance for the people of Nineveh. Let’s take a look at a couple of questions to dig deeper.

Discussion Questions* – *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time and told Jonah to arise and go to Nineveh. It’s easy to read that and gloss over the magnificence of this encounter. The “word of the Lord” came to man. It is remarkable that God would even communicate or even care about mankind who has rebelled against Him. Then to not only communicate once but twice. We tend to think of God as a God of second, third, thousandth chances but there is no reason God should give a second chance. There are times in Scripture that he doesn’t give a second chance to people. How do we presume on God’s grace and mercy? How do we neglect the word of God in our own lives? Do we expect a second chance? Why? Why not?
2. Jonah goes to Nineveh and preaches a 5-word Hebrew sermon. The Bible says the people of Nineveh believed. They began to repent and put on sackcloth and ashes. Jonah had the mission, the message, and the people that God had called him to. God’s mission may lead us into things that are difficult and uncomfortable. In what ways might you see Jonah’s obedience to go to Nineveh being difficult and uncomfortable for him? What about you? What ways do you experience the difficulty and uncomfortableness of being obedient to the commission God has given us? Are there people that you just do not want to engage with the message of God? How much do you base your decision about the mission of God on comfort for you and your family?
3. In verse 3 we read that Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the Word of the Lord. Where do people, including Christians, tend to get their marching orders on how they will live their lives on mission? Imagine yourself as Jonah,

what would you be thinking and feeling as you walked into that city? What would have been your fears?

4. The people of Nineveh repented, and God relented from bringing calamity or disaster on them. This should bring excitement and joy, but we will see next week this was not the case for Jonah. We see that God has genuine concern for the salvation of all people. He did not need Jonah to bring the Ninevites to repentance; however, he wanted to use him as an ambassador. God does not need us either, but he wants to use us as ambassadors. He wants us to experience the privilege of working with Him. How have you experienced or found the joy of serving with him in the past? Who are some people you know need Christ today? How can you pray for them?