

Jonah: A Second Time

Discussion Guide for Jonah 3:1-10 on Oct. 11th and 12th, 2025

Summary

After Jonah's time inside the fish, God gives him another chance to obey. This time, Jonah goes to Nineveh—a large and sinful city known for its wickedness. His message is short and simple: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned!" Yet the people believe God, humble themselves, and repent. From the king down to the least of them, everyone turns from their evil ways. This chapter shows that God is the God of another chance.

- God gives **Jonah** a second chance to obey.
- God gives **Nineveh** a second chance to repent.
- And God gives **us** a second chance every time we turn back to Him.

Even though Jonah's words were few, God's power was great. His mercy is not dependent on our perfect obedience, but on His steadfast love. The same mercy Jonah and Nineveh experienced points us to Jesus—the greater Jonah—who brings the ultimate message of repentance and forgiveness through the cross.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being patient with us and giving us second chances. Help us see Your mercy in Jonah's story and in our own lives. Teach us to respond to Your Word with humble hearts and to show the same grace to others that You've shown to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

Can you think of a time when someone gave you another chance after you failed? How did that change your heart or your attitude?

Key Verses

1. Jonah 3:1–2
2. Jonah 3:5–6
3. Jonah 3:9–10

Questions

1. God gave Jonah a second chance. What does this teach us about God's mercy toward people who fail or disobey Him?
2. Nineveh was called a "great city." Whether that meant huge in size or in importance, what does it show about God's care for people—even in places that seem far from Him?
3. Jonah's message was simple, but powerful. What does this tell us about where true power comes from—our words or God's Spirit?

4. The Hebrew word haphak can mean "destroyed" or "transformed." Why is that meaningful for Nineveh's story? What does it tell us about how God's warnings can either bring judgment or transformation?
5. Repentance means more than saying "sorry." How can we tell when repentance is real in someone's life?
6. The Bible says God "relented" from bringing disaster. How should we understand that? (Hint: God doesn't change His nature—but our repentance changes our relationship with Him.)
7. God's mercy to Nineveh shows that no one is too far gone. How does knowing that "there is more mercy in Christ than sin in us" (Richard Sibbes) give you hope in your own life?

Life Application

This week, thank God for the second chances He's given you.

Think of one person who needs grace from you—reach out, forgive, or encourage them. Let your actions reflect the mercy you've received in Christ.

Key Takeaways

1. God gives second chances to those who fail.
2. God's compassion reaches everyone—even those far from Him.
3. The power of change is in God's Word, not in us.
4. True repentance is a heart change that leads to action.
5. God doesn't change—but our repentance restores our relationship with Him.
6. We're called to extend mercy to others, just as God has to us.
7. Jonah's story points us to Jesus, who brings salvation and new life.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your mercy that never runs out. Thank You for giving us second chances and for calling us back to You. Help us to live with repentant hearts, to obey You quickly, and to show mercy to others the way You've shown mercy to us. In Jesus' name, amen.