

Small Group Bible Study

Jonah Week 4

The Comeback Story

Introduction

This week we pick up Jonah 3:1–10, a story of second chances. Jonah receives God’s call again and obeys. The city of Nineveh repents, and God shows mercy. Comeback stories are memorable because they involve redemption, humility, and transformation. Today we explore what makes a comeback story in our lives.

Opening Prayer Lord, open our hearts to see Your mercy and grace at work. Teach us to recognize second chances and help us walk in obedience. Amen.

Icebreaker:

Share a personal or sports-related comeback story you admire. Why does it inspire you?

Scripture Study Sections

1. Jonah’s Second Chance (Jonah 3:1–3)

God repeats His call to Jonah. This is Jonah’s second chance, a reminder that God’s patience gives us opportunities to obey even after failure.

1. What does God’s patience with Jonah teach you about His character?
2. How have you experienced second chances in your life?
3. Why might God give a second chance even when we fail?

2. Proclamation and Repentance (Jonah 3:4–5)

Jonah delivers the message of warning; the people of Nineveh respond in humility with fasting and sackcloth. Repentance requires both acknowledgment of sin and turning toward God.

1. Why do you think the Ninevites responded so quickly to Jonah’s message?
2. How does outward expression (fasting, sackcloth) connect with inward repentance?
3. What steps could you take to align your heart and actions in repentance?

3. Leadership and Example (Jonah 3:6–9)

Even the king repents, showing that leadership matters in modeling obedience and humility. God’s mercy is available to all who turn to Him.

1. How does the king’s example affect the people’s response?

2. What impact does your obedience or disobedience have on those around you?
3. In what area might God be calling you to lead by example?

4. God's Mercy in Action (Jonah 3:10; Luke 11:32)

God relents because of genuine repentance. Forgiveness and repentance are two sides of the same coin. Our comeback stories start with God's mercy.

1. How do forgiveness and repentance work together in a comeback story?
2. Why is it impossible to truly follow Jesus without both?
3. How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to take steps toward change today?

Application

A comeback story begins with forgiveness, requires repentance, and is empowered by God's Spirit. Jonah and Nineveh's stories remind us that God's purposes are bigger than our fears or past failures. In our lives, God provides second chances, calling us back to obedience and transformation.

Identify Your "Second Chance" Areas – Reflect on one area in your life where you've struggled or failed. How can you take a step today to respond to God's call and start your comeback?

Practice Humble Obedience – Choose one small, tangible way to obey God this week, even if it's uncomfortable or inconvenient, and commit to doing it fully, trusting His plan.

Repentance and Restoration in Action – Is there a relationship, habit, or mindset that needs repentance? Take one concrete action this week to turn from sin toward God (confession, asking forgiveness, or changing a behavior), relying on His Spirit to sustain you.

Closing Prayer