

July 18, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions

“Jonah: Chapter 3”
Jonah 3:1-10

- Please read *Jonah 3:1-10* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

After fleeing from the Lord, being swallowed by the fish, and repenting of his sin, Jonah is given a second chance by God (vs. 3:1).

Where else in the Bible have you seen God giving a person/people a second chance?

Has God ever given you a second chance?

Do you think that Jonah’s experience of God’s grace allowed him to share God’s message more effectively? Why or why not?

How does remembering God’s grace in our own lives lead us away from judging others?

The second time that God gave Jonah His word, Jonah obeyed. As he arrived in Nineveh, “*he called out, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’*” The Bible tells us that “*the people of Nineveh believed God*” (Jonah 3:4-5 ESV) and repented.

By who’s power do people come to repentance before the Lord?

Is it relieving to know that only God can change unrepentant hearts?

How does understanding God’s role in a person’s transformation give you confidence to tell others about Christ?

Out of an act of repentance, the king of Nineveh issued a decree stating “Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands” (Jonah 3:7-8 ESV).

Why did the king call for a fast and make everyone wear sackcloth?

What can we learn from the Ninevites about repentance?

Although Nineveh was a disgraceful nation, did God give them a second chance?

- **Matthew 12:40-41** (ESV) *“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”*

As Jonah provided a way for the people of Nineveh to restore their relationship with God, Christ provides a restored relationship with God for ALL who believe in Him. Christ is the greater Jonah and is the ONLY way by which we are justified before our Creator. As you experience Jesus’ love through the second chances He gives, let His kindness lead you to repentance and an attitude of humility.