



# jonah

## WEEK 3 - JONAH PROPHECIES TO NINEVEH OVERVIEW

When Jonah finally arrives in Nineveh, he gives his prophecy. With no opportunity for repentance in his message, Jonah simply declares the city will soon be destroyed. To his surprise (and great disappointment) the Ninevites respond immediately to this message with repentance from their evil ways, causing God to relent and not destroy it.

Unlike the story of Sodom, in which Abraham pleads with God to spare the city, Jonah *wants* the city destroyed. He hates the Ninevites. And yet, the Lord recognizes true repentance when he sees it. The story highlights the mercy and grace of God. It should bring us all to a place of sober reflection about our own hatred and hard-heartedness towards others and remind us of the teachings of Jesus to *love* our enemies and the compassionate nature of our God.

*When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways,  
he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened..*

Jonah 3:10

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you most relate to in this story? Why?
2. Read [Jonah 3](#). Why do you think the Ninevites reacted the way they did (verse 5)?
3. Tim asked in his sermon, "How deeply do we honestly want to see repentance in those that we would rather see overwhelmed?" How do you keep your attitude in check when it comes to certain people in your life?
4. Read [Luke 6:35-36](#). What steps could we put into practice to reflect the compassionate nature of God to others?
5. Are you willing to obey God, even when you know obeying will be very difficult? Have you experienced a situation like this in your life? If so, share your experience.
6. Throughout the book of Jonah, we have seen God's Grace shown to the sailors, Jonah, and the Ninevites. How has God shown grace to you?
7. How do you think the Israelites reacted to hearing the story of Jonah - during Jonah's time and for centuries?

## RESOURCES

[gracechurch.us](http://gracechurch.us)