

More Than A Children's Story: Jonah  
This week's reading: Jonah 1-4  
Discussion Guide: December 8, 2024

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. – 1 Corinthians 15:58

What spiritual discipline did you regularly practice this past week?

**OPEN:**

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?

**READ and ASK: Jonah 1-4**

- What seems both fitting and surprising about God's command to Jonah?
  - o Why do you think Jonah disobeys God?
- What does it say about God, that he sends Jonah to a prophecy to violent gentiles (non-Israelites)?
- What really is repentance? How is it different than just "feeling sorry"?
- How does God use the low points in people's lives to draw them closer to him?
  - o Why do the low points seem to be times where God can get people's attention best?
  - o Why do you think people rebel from God most when things seem to be going well for them?
- How would you describe the Ninevites response to Jonah's message?
  - o How could God's message to Nineveh be a similar message to us?
- What does God's compassion on Nineveh demonstrate about his heart for lost people (even notoriously evil ones)?
- What is surprising about the end of the book of Jonah?
  - o Why was Jonah angry?
  - o What do you think is the root cause of his anger?

**APPLY:**

- If you are really honest, do you struggle with thinking that there are people "beyond God's grace?"
  - o Who is the "Nineveh" in your life?

- When have you, or how are you running away from what God is calling you to do?
  - o Do you think there is a root cause to your running? If so, what do you think it is?
- How does remembering the grace God has shown you impact the way you live?
- What do you think is the overarching message of the book of Jonah?
  - o What is the greatest lesson that you need to take away from the book?
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- NEXT STEP: It is interesting that the population of Nineveh is quite similar to the population of people Cornerstone has the opportunity to reach out to.
  - o By tuning into God's heart, who do you think he is specifically calling you to reach out to?

Memory Work:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. - 2 Peter 3:9

Next Week's Reading:

1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22; 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25; Psalm 51