



## The God of a Second Chance Jonah 3:1-10

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. Read Jonah 3:1-3a. What does God tell Jonah? When was a time when you needed a second chance? What was Jonah's response this time? How do you tend to respond to second chances? Why do you think most people have to learn lessons the hard way?
3. What was God's responsibility? What was Jonah's? How does knowing that God will empower us affect how we interact with others where we live, work, learn, and play?
4. Read Jonah 3:3b-4. What message did God have for the people of Nineveh? Discuss the relationship between judgment and grace. In what ways are they different? How can they work together? We know grace is important, but why is judgment also essential?
5. Read Jonah 3:5-9. How did the Ninevites respond to God's message? What are indicators in the passage that they were humbled and open to God?
6. Jesus talked about "the sign of Jonah." What is it? See Matthew 12:38-41 and Luke 11:29-32. In what ways was Jonah an Old Testament type/symbol of Christ?
7. Did the discussion about Nineveh's association with fish and fish-humanlike deities shine any light on why the Ninevites might have been open to the message of Jonah? Read 2 Timothy 2:25. What is the ultimate source of repentance?
8. The Ninevites remind us that even people we think are far from God can still turn to him. Who have you written off? Does your attitude toward them need to change?
9. Discuss each of the Ninevites' actions demonstrated in this story that model for us what we need to do when God gives us a second chance: I respond to God's second chance by hearing (1-4), believing (5), humbling (5-8), praying (8), and repenting (8). Which ones do you most need to apply in your life today? Why?
10. Read Jonah 3:9. The Ninevites were humble and did not take God's mercy for granted. In what ways do we arrogantly presume that God will not discipline us?
11. Read Jonah 3:10. How did God respond to the Ninevites? When we turn, God turns. God is willing to change his mind about his judgment when we change our minds about our sin. Like the sailors, Jonah, and the Ninevites, in what way is God giving you a second chance with something today? What does this chapter reveal about God?
12. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.