

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

Pastor Kevin unpacks Jonah 3:1-10 to show that God is a God of second chances who uses messy, ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Despite Jonah's past failures and reluctant attitude, his simple five-word sermon to the brutally wicked city of Nineveh sparked an unexpected, city-wide movement of deep repentance and humility. The message challenges us to stop waiting for perfect confidence or pure motivations, reminding us that while our job is simply to take small, faithful steps of obedience, God's job is the outcome. Ultimately, Jonah's story points directly to Jesus—the "Greater Jonah"—who didn't reluctantly offer mercy, but joyfully took our judgment upon Himself so that we, too, could experience a second chance.

SHARE

Have you ever gotten a "second chance" at something—a relationship, a job, a ministry opportunity, or even just a do-over in a conversation? What did that second chance mean to you?

READ

Read **Jonah 3:1-10** together out loud as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Jonah 3:1-2, God's word comes to Jonah "a second time" with the exact same calling. Looking at the Hebrew text and context, what does this reveal about God's character and His approach to those who fail Him?

3. Read Jonah 3:5-9 carefully. The text switches from "LORD" (YHWH—God's covenant name) to "Elohim" (a general term for deity). What does this linguistic shift tell us about the Ninevites'

understanding of God? What does their response—despite limited knowledge—teach us about human spiritual responsiveness and the nature of genuine repentance?

4. Pastor Kevin said, “Our job is obedience. God’s job is the outcome.” Jonah delivered a five-word sermon with arguably a bad attitude, yet an entire city repented. What does this teach us about the relationship between our faithfulness and God’s power? How does this challenge our tendency to wait until we feel “ready” or “qualified”?

5. The king of Nineveh stepped off his throne, removed his royal robes, covered himself in sackcloth, and sat in the dust (Jonah 3:6). What made this act of humility so powerful? Where in your life might God be calling you to “step off your throne” and humble yourself before Him?

6. Pastor Kevin shared the story of Corrie ten Boom extending forgiveness to a former concentration camp guard. He asked, “Who makes you uncomfortable? What type of people?” Is there a person or group of people—at work, in your neighborhood, at school—that you struggle to show mercy toward? How does the Ninevites’ story challenge your perspective?

7. Pastor Kevin challenged us: “Don’t wait until you’re ready. Take one small step this week.” What is one small, faithful step of obedience God is asking you to take right now—even if you feel hesitant or unqualified?

NEXT STEPS

- **Pray for someone by name:** This week, pray daily for a specific person or group of people God has placed on your heart—someone who might be difficult, different, or distant from you. Ask God to align your heart with His.
- **Take one small step:** Identify one area where God is calling you to obedience—a difficult conversation, serving somewhere new, reconciling a relationship, or showing mercy. Don’t wait for perfect readiness; act in faith this week.
- **Reflect on repentance:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one habit, bitterness, prejudice, or area where you need to step down from your throne and seek God’s mercy. Bring it to God in honest prayer.

PRAY

Take time to pray together as a group:

- Thank God for being the God of second chances and for His relentless mercy toward us.
- Confess areas where you’ve been resistant to God’s call or harbored unforgiveness toward others.
- Ask God to give you courage to take small steps of obedience this week, even when you feel hesitant.
- Pray specifically for the people or groups each person mentioned—that God would soften hearts (yours and theirs) and open doors for mercy and reconciliation.

CONNECT

Stay connected with what's happening at Cornerstone! Check out **The Hub** for upcoming community **events**, **workshops**, and **service opportunities** where your group can get involved. Whether it's serving in the community or joining a ministry team, there are always ways to live out the message of mercy beyond boundaries together.

CLOSING

"God does world-changing things through people who feel hesitant but choose to obey anyway." This week, remember that obedience doesn't have to be impressive—it just has to be faithful. God can use your five-word sermon, your small step, your reluctant "yes" to do something extraordinary. Go in the grace and power of the God of second chances.