

## Return Series: The Book of Jonah

### Sermon Discussion Questions

Week One: *The City God Loves*

Passage: Jonah 1:1, 4:11

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is curious to think that God would send a prophet to the Gentile city of Nineveh? What do you know about this city? Why does God still care about them?
2. Think of a moment when you failed to share God's grief for lost people. How would you have responded differently sharing his heart?
3. Think of a moment when you failed to share God's passion for truth. If you shared his heart for truth, how would you have responded differently?
4. Think of a moment when you failed to share God's grace for people. If you had God's heart, how would you have responded differently?
5. Why is it important that we stay close to God and how he sees the world?
6. This week it was argued that regular church attendance is a very helpful way to stay close to God's view of the world. Do you agree or disagree with this?

Week Two: *The City Jonah Loves*

Passage: Jonah 1:1-17

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the significance of Jonah going to Tarshish? What did this exotic, Mediterranean city represent to him?
2. Consider the reaction of the other sailors on board with Jonah. What does their urgency contrasted with Jonah's apathy reveal about Jonah's heart for lost people?
3. Jonah thinks he can actually flee from the presence of an omnipresent God. How does Psalm 139:1-12 confront this idea? Does that truth confront or comfort you today?
4. When God calls Jonah to Nineveh, he flees to Tarshish. Has God ever called you to something that caused you to run the other way? What was your experience like?
5. Has God ever called you to something in which you responded obediently. What was your experience like?
6. Why does Jesus compare himself to Jonah in Matthew 12:40? What is the significance for us in seeing Jesus as the greater Jonah?

## Week Three: *The God Who Saves Sinners*

Passage: Jonah 3:1-10

### Discussion Questions:

1. At the beginning of chapter 3, God showed an inexplicable amount of patience towards his rebellious Jonah. How could our love for be God strengthened by remembering that God won't kick us out of his family, no matter how many times we stumble? How does reflecting on God's grace to us help us show grace to others?
2. It has been argued that a message of judgement is an opportunity for grace. Do you agree with this? If God simply wanted to judge Nineveh, why would he call Jonah to preach the message to them?
3. God wants to save our unbelieving friends as well. Sometime we run from the call to do so. Why do we do this? Have you ever have the joy of leading someone to trusting in Christ? What was the experience like?
4. Read about the conversion of the Ninevites in 3:5-9. How can we be sure their sorrow for their sin is legitimate?

## Week Four: *The One That Jonah Loves*

Passage: Jonah 4

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Jonah angry in 4:1? Why would he rather die than see Nineveh under God's grace and wrath? How do our hearts resemble the extreme heart of Jonah here? Are there ever times when God's grace is frustrating?
2. The appearance of the plant for shade is comforting and its death is comical. What does Jonah's reaction to the disappearance of the plant show about what Jonah really cares about?
3. How do we let our own cares and agenda come before what God wants to do?
4. How might listening for his agenda and establishing his kingdom lead to a more rewarding life than simply focusing on building our own little kingdoms with our own agendas?
5. Who are some people that God is calling you to look after this week? What will the cost be for you?