

## Jonah Introduction

# Discussion Questions

*Opening discussion:* In Ephesians 2:8 we read: “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God!” How might it impact our lives if we don’t understand that salvation is a free gift?

Jonah demonstrates that a failure to understand God’s grace will effect our lives in the following ways:

### **Reluctant to Witness** (Read Jonah 1:1-3)

- Why do you think Jonah runs away?
- Look at Jonah 4:2. What reason does Jonah himself give?
- Jonah doesn’t think the Ninevites *deserve* to be saved. What does this imply about how he views his own salvation?
- Do you WANT to share the Gospel with other people?
  - What might this reveal how well you grasp God’s grace?

### **Hollow in Worship** (Skim-read Jonah chapter 2)

- God has rescued Jonah from drowning. How does Jonah respond?
- Does Jonah confess his sin or express repent at any point in this song? Does this surprise you given the context?
- Jonah praises God for his OWN salvation but in chapter 4 that he is angry when God saves people who don’t ‘deserve’ it. This makes chapter 2 seem hollow and hypocritical.
  - Do you ever feel like you are ‘going through the motions’ on Sunday morning? Why do you think this is?
  - Are there ways you can rekindle your passion and sincerity in worship?

### **Half-hearted with the Word** (Read Jonah 3:4-5)

- How does the response of the people of Nineveh compare to Jonah’s response in chapter 1?
  - How does this compare to your own response to the Word of God?
- If we fail to understand that God is gracious and compassionate, how might this sour the way we approach what he says to *us* in the Bible?

### **Joyless in your Walk** (Read Jonah 4:1-4)

- It seems Jonah has fallen into a deep depression. Why?
- Understanding the grace of God more deeply will bring more joy to your everyday walk with Jesus.
  - Do you agree? Why?

### Prayer Ideas:

- Give thanks that we have a more faithful prophet than Jonah – the Lord Jesus who is full of grace and truth (John 1:14)!
- Pray that as we continue to study Jonah, the grace of God would sink in more deeply and motivate us as witnesses and worshippers and make us more joyful and obedient.