



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Bible Reading: Jonah 1:14 – 3:10

The main purpose of the book of Jonah is to understand God's mercy and grace. This amazing and far-reaching mercy is what leads us to repentance.

God is patient and generous. We see this is how God treats Jonah, the sailors and the Ninevites. But we also recognise that sometimes God allows us to hit rock-bottom in order that we recognise God's mercy and respond in repentance and avoid the even greater pain of being separated from God eternally.

In the story of Jonah, we see God's righteousness and His love working together. He is both too holy and too loving to either destroy Jonah or to allow him to remain as he is. And it is the same with us.

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: If possible, watch the Bible Project's overview of Jonah together. Are there are new insights this offers for you into the book of Jonah?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLlabZc004c> or search Bible Project Jonah or YouTube

READ: Jonah 2:1 – 3:10

- **How do we see God's mercy in this story? How is God at work?**
An initial, surface-level reading can focus us purely on repentance. But we need to recognise that God is the one reaching out to people, mercifully. He is at work in the background more than we know.
- **We see in Jonah that mercy is misunderstood; he still wants life and God on his terms. How can we grow in understanding God's mercy and grace for us and others?**
- **We see Jonah and the Ninevites repent, one individually, the other collectively. What does repentance and confession look like in our lives and in our church / LG?**
- **Based on the first half of chapter three, what are your thoughts on Jonah's method of evangelism? Is he scared, reluctant, disobedient? What does all this mean for us in our outreach and mission?**
God is the one with saving power, not us – it isn't our words or deeds that save people. This is absolutely fundamental for us to believe. God ordains the whole mission, He is working in the background, and therefore the message touches the hearts of the Ninevites.

READ: Romans 1:16

- **How can we rely on the Gospel, God's power to save, more in our lives? Not just in our interactions with other people, but also personally, in our own hearts and lives?**

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to reveal His love, mercy and grace to us, and that as we recognise our sin and brokenness, we will continue to turn to Him for salvation. Pray for those in your lives that don't know God and that God would be working in their hearts. Pray that we would courageously step out and share the Gospel.