

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **The Book of Jonah**

TITLE: **The Reluctant Prophet**

BIG IDEA: Jonah shows that even though he was a reluctant prophet, God was still at work behind the scenes to seek and to save the lost of Nineveh.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read Jonah 3:1-2

Have you ever thought about where the giant fish vomits

Jonah to? What do you think was the greatest obstacle for Jonah making the long journey to Nineveh?

Read Jonah 3:3-5

What does Jonah's reluctant obedience reveal about the difference between doing what God asks and doing it wholeheartedly?

If the Ninevites heard about Jonah and the great fish, what does that teach us about how God is working behind the scenes to prepare the hearts of those we are called to reach?

Read Jonah 3:6-9

Why do you think the King responds in humility rather than pride when he hears Jonah's warning of judgement?

What is the purpose of the King of Nineveh making the proclamation that everyone in the city, including the animals, is to fast in response to the news of coming judgement?

The king of Nineveh repented without any guarantee that God would spare his city, saying 'who knows, God may relent' — what does it reveal about the state of your own faith if you only repent or obey when you are certain of a favorable outcome?

How does the story of Jonah being In the belly of a fish for three days and three nights, prepare the hearts of the Ninevites for a message of repentance?

What does the King's posture of repentance reveal about those God desires to save? How does it challenge us who walk in pride instead of humility?

How do you think the power of community aided the wave of repentance that flowed through Nineveh?

How do you think our churches can learn from the community of pagans in their desire for repentance? What do you think holds the local church from taking the necessary steps of true repentance?

Do you think God is working behind the scene to prepare the hearts of those who are close to you but far from him? How are you sharing the Gospel with them so that they will like the Ninevites who repented and believed?

What do you think the response of the lost (pagans) would be if the church (prophets) simply obeyed the commands given, instead of running like Jonah?

GROWING IN CHRIST

LIVING AS A FAMILY

SHARING THE GOSPEL