

# The Book of Jonah

June 14, 2026

## Ice Breaker

What's one common saying or piece of advice you believed for years that you later discovered wasn't actually true? (Like "coffee stunts your growth" or "you have to wait 30 minutes after eating before swimming")

## Key Verses

- Jonah 3:1-2
- Jonah 3:5
- Jonah 3:10
- Jonah 4:1-2
- Joel 2:13-14
- Matthew 12:41

## Questions

1. Why do you think Jonah was angry when God showed mercy to Nineveh, especially after experiencing God's grace himself?
2. How does understanding the difference between turning (shuv) and repenting (nacham) change your perspective on what true repentance means?
3. Can you think of a time when you questioned whether someone's conversion or faith was real enough? What drove those doubts?

4. What does Nineveh's immediate response to Jonah's message teach us about God's power to change hearts?
5. How might the church better support new believers instead of adopting a wait and see attitude?
6. In what ways do we sometimes act like we deserve God's grace more than others?
7. How can we celebrate God's grace in others' lives even when their journey looks different from ours?
8. What practical steps can we take to avoid becoming like Jonah in our attitudes toward other believers?

## Life Application

This week, identify someone in your life (whether a new believer, someone struggling in their faith, or someone you've been skeptical about) and intentionally celebrate God's work in their life. Instead of waiting to see if they prove their faith, find a way to encourage them and come alongside them in their journey. Practice extending the same grace to others that God has extended to you.

## Key Takeaways

1. God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in mercy - this is His unchanging character
2. True repentance (nacham) means feeling regret and sorrow for sin, not just turning away from it (shuv)
3. God's grace and mercy are available to all people, regardless of their past or the severity of their sins
4. We should celebrate when God extends grace to others rather than questioning whether they deserve it
5. Pride and arrogance prevent us from truly celebrating God's grace in both our own lives and others' lives

# Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for this time of studying Your Word together and learning about Your incredible grace and mercy. Help us to leave here with hearts that are more like Yours - hearts that celebrate when You work in people's lives rather than questioning or doubting. Forgive us for the times we've acted like Jonah, believing we deserve Your grace while others do not. Remind us daily that we are all sinners saved by grace, and help us extend that same grace to others. Give us opportunities this week to encourage and support those around us in their faith journey. May we be known as people who celebrate Your goodness rather than judge others' worthiness. Thank You for Your son Jesus, through whom we have eternal life. In His precious name we pray, Amen.