

**Not Just FOR Us – Part 3**  
Community Group Discussion Guide  
May 16, 2021

God's love and grace is for everyone. Jonah pitched a fit about going to Nineveh because he couldn't stand the people. Jonah kept going to the bottom instead of the top. The grace that God shows Johan isn't just for him but for all the people who were following God. Like Jonah, we all have our ups and downs. All along, God is trying to tell us to "go up."

This series is taking us on journey into the world of the prophet Jonah. Most of us haven't given the story of Jonah and the great fish a second thought. Afterall, what can we possibly learn from the story about a man getting swallowed by a fish? Throughout this series we will see a full picture develop of God's love, compassion, and realize that no one is beyond redemption. That the gospel is for all who repent and believe. We will learn from this reluctant prophet Jonah and be determined to obey God doing whatever he asks and going wherever he leads.

Jonah learns some extremely valuable lessons about his leadership, his faith, and about God's activity in the world around him. God was asking Jonah to do something he didn't want to do. This created great conflict for him. He wasn't so interested in being a vessel of God's message to Nineveh, he just wanted to live his life his way.

\*Take a few minutes to discuss the last couple weeks of this series about Jonah and share some of your personal insight and application. What are you learning and how does it apply to your life right now?

Remember, God used a "gadol" great fish to get Jonah's attention.

\*What has God used to get your attention?

Jonah says – *"Hey, don't shoot the messenger, but I'm here to tell you, you have 40 days to get your act together. 40 days or you're going to lose it all."*

**\*Read together Jonah 3:1-3 Jonah fulfills his mission**

**Scripture Support:**

v. 1,2; Johan was to preach only what God had instructed him to. It was a message of doom to one of the most powerful cities in the world. No wonder Jonah wanted to avoid going there. Johan could not let social pressure or fear of the people dictate his words. We too should not give into the same. We too are called by God to share his truth, no matter how unpopular it may be.

\*Share an example of a time when you believed that God may have been providing you an opportunity to share about Him, but you were fearful or failed to recognize the opportunity. Explain the situation.

### **Read together Jonah 3:3-10**

#### **Scripture Support:**

v. 3; There was Nineveh the city, then Nineveh proper that covered about 30-60 miles across.

v. 4-9; God's word is for everyone. Despite all the wickedness of the Ninevite people, they were open to God's message and repented immediately.

If we proclaim what we know about God, we may be surprised at how many people will listen and respond.

\*Share an example of a time when you had an opportunity to share with someone your reason for believing in God, your personal relationship, and they listened to you.

Read verse 10 again....

**v. 10;** The people of Nineveh believed the message that Jonah was sharing and repented. This was a miracle. God's word has power of sin. Their repentance stood in stark contrast to Israel's stubbornness. The people of Nineveh only needed to hear the message of God once. Jesus said that at the judgement, the men of Nineveh will stand up to condemn the Israelites for their failure to repent. We cannot just hear the word of God, but we must listen and obey.

God's response to the people of Nineveh was mercy. He canceled all the punishment that he had threatened. God forgave Nineveh, just as he forgave Jonah for his disobedience. God is always ready to show compassion to anyone willing to seek him.

\*Share an example of how you have experienced God's compassion in your relationship with Him.

God loves those that we might think are unlovable in our communities, schools, and workplaces.

They may not believe just yet, but God still wants to do a miracle in their lives through us. It may not involve being swallowed by a fish however, it does involve loving others the way he calls us to love them and God's Holy Spirit drawing them to himself

That's the miracle!

**Not Just FOR Us**

