



Title: GOD'S VAST MERCY

Main Scripture: Book of Jonah,  
Matthew 12:39-41

**God chose His people, not for themselves, but for everyone else.**

(Gen 22:17-18; Lev 19:34; Deut 10:19, 27:19; Jon 1:1-3, 5-6, 2:10-3:5, 3:10-4:3; Nah 3:1, 4)

**God's mercy is for all ... even enemies.**

(Rom 3:23, Ex 34:6, Rom 2:4)

**Something greater than Jonah is here.**

(Jon 1:1-2, 4-6, 15; Mat 4:17, 8:24-26, 12:39-41; Mic 7:19; Heb 2:17)

**God's mercy is too vast to remain in us, but overflows to those around us.**

(Rom 5:8; Mat 5:43-45, 28:19-20)

# “The Vast Mercy of God” | March 16 & 17, 2024

## Small Group Sermon Study

**Opening Prayer:** *Father God, thank You for the chance to meet and spend time with You and Your Word. Please guide us and give us all that we need for this time today and to grow deeper in our relationship with You. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

**Icebreaker:** What kind of board game player are you? Win at all costs? Or do you prefer the team approach, helping other people win? Maybe you’re not competitive or concerned with the outcome. Share with the group about how your style of game play has impacted you and who you’ve played with.

**Share with your group anything that stood out to you from the message. Then answer the following questions below:**

1. Mercy is defined as the withholding of deserved punishment or judgement. Pastor Kris reminds us in his opening comments that God cares for all nations and that He desires that His chosen people (Israel, and by extension, us) would minister His mercy to the nations. In what ways could you, as a group, minister mercy to those around you?
2. Pastor Kris says, “In the book of Jonah we get one of the clearest pictures of how vast the mercy and love of God is for His people and even their enemies and the Ninevites were, without question, enemies of Israel and God.”
  - In what ways is offering mercy to people that have wronged us difficult?
  - What thoughts and emotions does that create within you?
  - Share with the group what you’re thinking and feeling. What situations are causing you to react that way?
3. As you consider Jonah’s story, do you see glimpses of yourself in it? Pastor Kris mentions three ways we may be able to relate:
  1. Knowing God’s call on us yet choosing to go another way.
  2. Ignoring God’s warning and choosing to “sleep” spiritually.
  3. Obeying God with an attitude of bitterness.
    - Take some time to share with the group on how you can relate to Jonah. Pray for one another and encourage each other as you go. Remember, we are all in need of God’s mercy. We can offer grace and mercy to each other.
4. The parallels between Jonah and Jesus are important to note. When you consider Jesus, the one who offers compassion and mercy to all who receive Him, in what ways can we emulate His heart and response to others personally and as a group?

**Closing Prayer and Reflection:** Take some time to encourage each other in this and to pray for one another. Jesus is something better, and we are so grateful. As a group spend some time thanking Jesus for His mercy.