

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 1/21/2024

### Jonah 3

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

### Highlights

- **Verse 1-2** We're back at the beginning!
  - God could have sent someone else, but He waited for the "foolish prophet" to get his act together and said, "you, Jonah, are going to do this."
  - Note that it's the message "I [God] give you. God is saying, "hey, I'm there with you."S
  - **God is there with you, too, when He calls you to something.**
  - The Neo-Assyrian Empire ruled from 911BC – 612BC and violently took whatever they wanted. Every king was judged by how much they expanded their territory each year.
- **Verse 3-4** Overthrown is the same word used to describe Sodom and Gomorrah, and to describe the flaming sword that God put outside the Garden when Adam and Eve were banished?
  - The word means God is saying you can go no further, you're done.
  - **Has God ever let you know you can go no further?**
  - 40 = is a number associated with testing or trial
  - Scripture tells us only one sentence Jonah said, but what did he really say.
    - Maybe his story about a boat and a fish and his strong and mighty God
    - **What is your story about God's power? Who can you share it with.**
  - Note they believed GOD, not Jonah.
- **Verse 5-6** Fasting was not a Jewish thing, it was a Middle Eastern thing
  - When you fast, you deny yourself food to remind you who sustains you.
  - Also when you don't eat, you keep your mouth shut, and sometimes we just need to keep our mouth shut.
  - Sitting in ashes reminds us we're nothing; we came from the ground
  - Sackcloth is inexpensive and available to anyone and reminds us that in God's eyes we're all the same.
  - The king took off any symbol of his human power and control and replaced it with humility.
  - **Our response to God removing His Godliness when He came to earth as Jesus is to remove all of our own control and power in humility.**
    - We take off our humanness – control, status, wealth, etc.
  - **Repentance** – actively moving away from sin to honor and worship the Lord
- **Verse 7-9** The king had everyone fast and wear sackcloth – even the animals. He was going the extra mile just to make sure.
  - When the king said to give up their evil ways and violence, he was basically asking them to give up their identity.
  - Even if our circumstances don't change our lives are headed towards death. We must repent.
  - **What does repentance look like in your life?**
  - The Assyrian expansion stopped when this happened. It was called the Period of Stagnation 783BC-745BC
- **Verse 10** God SAW what they did and how they turned and then He relented
  - Our actions of surrender move God.
    - It does not mean He will do what we want.
    - **How have you surrendered to God that then God moved?**

- God sees you and when you worship, it moves Him.
- God did not want to destroy them, He wanted a relationship with them; he wanted them to repent so He could have that relationship with Him.
  - God does not want to destroy you either.
  - God doesn't even want to destroy evil, He wants you to repent from it.

**So what do I do?**

- 1. There's an opportunity today to take a step toward Jesus.**
- 2. Wherever God calls you, He goes with you. You may be called to a conversation, to meet a need, etc.**
- 3. You can repent right now. Choose humility. Why wait?**