

**Let's start:** Invite God into the meeting. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide your meeting, and to touch your lives.

**Discussion:** When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:10.

**Note that this is only a guide. Please discuss the points you want to discuss.**

*The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.*

*Jonah:1-3(NLT)*

- 1. Why do you think Jonah was willing to defy and disobey God? What stands out most for you about the story of Jonah? Why do you think so many people believe Jonah is a fairytale, rather than the true historical word of God? What is the danger in viewing this story as a fairytale?**

*This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." Jonah 4:1-3 (NLT)*

- 2. What stands out most for you in these verses? What did Jonah want to happen to the people of Nineveh? Who is your worst enemy, and what would you do if God asked you to go and minister to them? Would you?**

*"Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed. Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?" "Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!" Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?" Jonah 4:5-11 (NLT)*

- 3. In what way does this scripture ring true to your own life (please share examples)?  
Dowe have enough compassion for our own 'enemies'? Have you personally possibly  
held onto any unforgiveness, or hate, towards others?**

*Remember: Jonah was happy only when God did things to benefit him, but as soon as things went against him he grew upset. We can easily laugh at this reaction, but is this not true of our own lives? Has God called you to reach out to someone, or serve in a ministry, and you have remained indifferent, or like Jonah, gone the other way?!*

**WORKS:** Let's pray for:

- The Holy Spirit to touch those that are struggling to forgive certain people or groups of people, to be free from it.
- Those walking in disobedience to Gods instruction, to follow Gods guiding in their lives.
- Thank God for the peaceful elections.
- Any special needs in the group.
- Please pray for the eldership and leadership team of the church for 5 minutes, who are constantly under attack.