

WEEK 3 | JONAH 3 | RUNNING WITH GOD

Please read Jonah 3 and answer the following questions.

How would Jonah's experience of being in the fish have affected his preaching?

Jesus said the men of Nineveh would rise up to judge His generation in Matthew 12:38-42. What's Jesus' point in referring to the repentance of the men of Nineveh?

Jonah's prophecy was that the city would be overthrown in 40 days. The city's repentance caused God to relent on the punishment. Does God's changing His mind about the punishment affect how people view prophecy?

Deuteronomy 30 lays out the idea of conditional prophecy. God responds to the actions of the people by relenting the punishment. How can this affect people's responses to God's call for repentance?

The people repented with sackcloth and ashes, which was a sign of repentance and sorrow. How do the following passages help you understand this symbolic action?

- Nehemiah 9

- Esther 4

- Daniel 9

The entire city of Nineveh repented and turned from their evil ways. How would this affect their practices of worshipping pagan gods? What visible signs would there be of this repentance? How would their everyday lives change?

What do you think Jonah expected to happen after he presented God's message? What did he want to happen?

How does God giving Nineveh a second chance compare or contrast with God giving Jonah a second chance?

God relented. How does this help your understanding of God's nature? When have you been glad you didn't receive what you had coming? See <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-change-mind.html>

- Exodus 32
- Judges 2
- 2 Samuel 24
- Amos 7

The sequel to the book of Jonah is the Old Testament book of Nahum, written about a century after Jonah. Read chapters 1-3 of Nahum. How does this book help us understand Jonah?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The word repent means "to change one's mind or purpose" How does Jonah demonstrate repentance? Knowing the full story, do you think Jonah was truly repentant?

What does God's "recommissioning" of Jonah teach you about repentance?

Compare/contrast the people of Nineveh's immediate reaction to God's message with Jonah's reaction (keeping in mind they are foreign pagans whereas Jonah is an Israelite). What stands out? How do they better demonstrate repentance?

Jonah 3:10 says, "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented..." Does God change His mind? How did our personal Bible study this week, looking at other examples when God relented, help you answer this question?