



# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 18

## GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

## WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Hey friends! Tonight we are going to take a quick minute to write an encouraging note to our Pastor of Student Ministries (Will, Mark, Brandon, Megan, Tyler or Tony). Just say something you like about them, why you are thankful for them, or something you love about GZ - and then sign your name. (Note: for Mark, at Lino, this could just be a welcome note, since they don't know him yet)

## BIBLE VERSES

Jonah chapter 3

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

We are in week 3 of our study of the book of Jonah. This week we are going to tackle chapter 3 together, but let's recap what happened in the first 2 chapters. Jonah was asked by God to go to the Ninevites and demand that they repent, change their behavior and worship God. Jonah did NOT want to do that, so he ran away. He got on a ship headed in the opposite direction. While he was on the ship, a terrible storm came and the sailors threw Jonah overboard in order to get the storm to stop. It did stop and the sailors worshiped God. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and he was inside the fish for 3 days and 3 nights. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God, asked for forgiveness and recommitted himself to following God. Then the fish spit Jonah up on the shore.

Read together Jonah chapter 3:

1. What did God ask Jonah to do in vs.2?
2. Why do you think Jonah decided to go this time?
3. How did the people of Nineveh respond? Do you find that surprising? Why or why not?
4. What was God's response to the Ninevites repentance? (you may have to explain the word repentance here)
5. If you were teaching this story to a little kid, what would you tell them God wants us to learn from this story?
6. What is one thing YOU want to take away from chapter 3 of Jonah as a learning? (Suggestions: do what God asks the first time, trust that God can do the impossible (even cause bad people to be sorry and make changes), remember that God will forgive us no matter what we've done, etc.)

## LEADER INSIGHT

This story is easy to brush past because it's so different than anything we've ever experienced or will experience in our lives. Try to help the students put themselves in Jonah's position anyway. Help them to see that God is asking us to respond to his promptings and Biblical teachings all the time - and that we can make a big difference in people's lives when we say yes to God.

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Ask students to take some time to talk to God alone at the end of this small group time. 1 or 2 minutes is all they need. That time could be time to tell God they want to say "yes" when he prompts them to do something, or it could be a time of confession.