



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE

March 21

BIBLE PASSAGE

Jonah 4

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

The book of Jonah is an ancient story of a Prophet of God named Jonah. In this story Jonah is asked by God to go to the "great city of Nineveh" and tell them to change their ways because they were wicked. But, there is a catch. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, and so he ran away from God and from the people of Nineveh.

The story of Jonah has a lot to teach us about the things we run away from in our life, and what repentance looks like as well as learning how to trust God even when we have different ideas of how things should turn out.

In chapter two of Jonah's story we find him deep in the belly of a fish after he had tried to run away from God and got caught on a boat in a terrible storm that forced him to be thrown overboard. In this chapter Jonah is crying out to God for forgiveness.

Tonight we are going to look at Jonah 2 to learn what real repentance looks like for us.

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?

What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
Think of a time when someone received mercy that didn't deserve it.	How did that make you feel? What did you think they deserved? What did you wish would have happened to them?
What is forgiveness?	Forgiveness is having the ability to give someone something they don't deserve without holding it against them.
Why God forgive Nineveh?	God forgave because that is what God does. He freely offers forgiveness to those who don't deserve it because he loves them.
Why did Jonah get so upset with God when He forgave Nineveh?	Jonah had a grudge and he didn't want God to do what he does, forgive people who don't deserve it.
Is there anyone who doesn't deserve forgiveness?	Not according to God. His arms are open to all who make the decision to pay attention to Him and follow after Him.
Is there anyone in your life that you need to extend forgiveness to?	...

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

Who needs forgiveness that you feel doesn't deserve it?

What are some ways we can begin to keep ourselves open to offering forgiveness?

Is there any part of our life that we think God can't forgive? How can we respond like Nineveh and trust that God will accept us?

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: