



Week 3 – Group Discussion Questions

JONAH 1:7-16

Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" ⁹ He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.) ¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" ¹² "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." ¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased." ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Belief and response are inseparable. The ways in which we live our lives reflect what we truly believe on the inside. When we fail to live out our faith, we harden ourselves toward God and may bring trouble to those around us, like Jonah did with the sailors.

Of course, none of us walks in perfect obedience. We are sinners living in a sinful world, which means there will always be levels of inconsistency. But our awareness of those inconsistencies should motivate us toward repentance rather than resignation.

God is gracious, so much so that He is willing to divinely interrupt our disobedience to draw us back to Himself. Trust Him to mold you in such a way as to bridge the gap between head knowledge and life application.

- 1) How has God been using the book of Jonah in your life over these last two weeks? Where are you feeling convicted to grow? In what ways have you felt encouraged to live differently?
- 2) What are some of the ways Jonah 1:7–16 contrasts Jonah's character with that of the sailors?
- 3) Through listening to God in prayer last week, is there an area of your spiritual life where God has awakened in you?

Week 3: Praying Prayers of Intercession

God is preparing our church for a significant move of his Spirit, and it will be revealed by people having a greater hunger and thirst after God and his Spirit over anything else this world has to offer. Last week our prayer practice was focusing on spiritual hunger prayers followed by listening prayer.

- Share within the group what your experience was in praying for more spiritual hunger.
- If there's something you heard or sensed from the Lord for the group? Have group share.

This week we are going to be practicing the practice of Intercession

Practicing Intercession: When we intercede in prayer we are fighting or battling in the gap for others in some way. We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do when it comes to intercession. In 2 Corinthians 10: 2-5 we see that the weapons we use are not made of flesh.

² I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

The weapons that are used in prayers of intercession are spiritual, not flesh—in fact Paul uses a word for “power” that means “dynamic miracles from God.—so powerful we get the word dynamite from that word usage. ” We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning, false arguments, and anything priding itself instead of the truth of God.

But what does that actually mean?

It means that when we pray and intercede for others, we can address the things that keep them from seeing, knowing, and understanding the truth of God and the love He pursues them with. Intercessory prayer is speaking God’s power into situations, circumstances, and obstacles that keep others from coming to faith, being healed, or set free. In essence, through prayer, we destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture rebellious thoughts that sets itself up from seeing Jesus and His truth.

In community we are going to practice prayers of intercession for people who don’t know Jesus yet or have walked away. Also, we are going to be interceding for physical, spiritual, and emotional needs in your group.

Needed: Note cards or sticky notes

Break up into smaller groups (3-4 people) and designate a leader within that group. Put away your phones or any other distractions, and get comfortable.

1. In your smaller group, make a prayer cards together - a short list of people or circumstances where you desire to see God radically move.

- Any crises or emergencies in your group
- Any illness, financial needs, etc. in your group
- Any areas in which people need healing in your group
- Any people you know that are *Persons of Peace* that you’d like to see come to faith in Jesus or persons who have walked away from God.

2. Spend just a minute or two in silence as a group. Incorporating last week's practice, spend a couple minutes listening. If God brings any additional pictures, Scriptures, or impressions, add them to the cards or sticky notes. Intercession is often like a lightning bolt: Add any impressions to the sticky note that God seems to be initiating.

3. Pray through your prayer cards or sticky notes

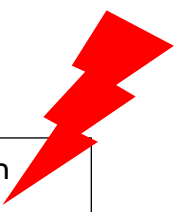
- Have each person in the community take on at least one prayer of intercession.
- Continue to pray this coming week at home.

4. Close in a prayers of gratitude and expectation of how God desires to bring heaven to earth in these prayers of intercession. Remember you are praying with God's miraculous dynamite-like power. We are removing through prayer the things that keep others from seeing God's Kingdom on earth.

5. Keep on praying. We intercede until the answer comes.

Remember that the Holy Spirit very often prompts intercession. He tells us when and what to pray for. Stay available and attentive to His prompting. You could suddenly feel heaviness or anxiety for someone, see a name or a face of a person during your prayer time or simply feel an urge to pray without any explanations. Ask the Holy Spirit what's going on, for whom are you praying and if there are any specific instructions on how He wants you to pray. If you receive no answer, just trust Him and pray until the heaviness lifts and you get a sense that the task is completed (Romans 8: 26-27). If you have a prayer language, many times the Holy Spirit will give you immediate words and things to pray.

You could also intercede for certain people or situations on a regular basis. Ask the Lord to show you clearly how and what to pray for specifically (Psalm 25: 4-5, 14), and pray unceasingly until you either see results or the Lord tells you to stop.



Prayers of Intercession

- It's born in the Father's heart, His initiative.
- Sent to earth by the Holy Spirit, into the praying heart
- The person praying raises the need back to God in prayer
- God performs changes on earth in response to prayer. God tears down the enemy's strongholds.

Example Schedule for Group Time

10 min.	Welcome time
10 min.	Ice Breaker or Relational time (i.e. Sweets and Sours, a game, etc.)
7 min.	Watch the video
20 min.	Discussion Questions
15 min.	The Practice Prayer: Prayers of Intercession

Weekly videos links and PDF available at gracegathering.com/groups