



Week 6 – Group Discussion Questions

JONAH 3:6-10

⁶When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." ¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." ³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

CONTENT OBSERVATIONS

Repentance is a comprehensive act that requires soul reflection guided by the Holy Spirit, as well as the willingness to let go of whatever distracts us from God. Like the Ninevites, we must be willing to lay aside our luxuries and desires if they get in the way of our relationship with God. Sin traps us and when we refuse to pursue genuine repentance, we keep ourselves in a self-imposed prison. This week we find out that even though Jonah shared what he was supposed to, he still was imprisoned by his attitude toward God and repentance wasn't even something that he wasn't giving any thought to. However, God used Jonah's half-hearted attempt and completely changes an entire city. Jonah 3:5 points out that belief in God had spread throughout the city of Nineveh despite the short tenure of Jonah's preaching as well as the brevity of his message.

Q: How did the "king of Nineveh" hear Jonah's message?

The phrase “the word reached the king of Nineveh” suggests Jonah’s message likely came to the royal figure by way of his citizens rather than a private audience with Jonah. In other words, the message of God spread quickly.

Q: How did he respond?

We can make the following observations from the passage:

- He rose from his throne.
- He took off his royal robe.
- He dressed in sackcloth.
- He sat among ashes.
- He issued a citywide decree requiring fasting, sackcloth, and penitent prayer.

In other words, he identified himself with the rest of his people—guilty before God—and devoted himself to approving and participating in the repentance occurring among his people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) What does the King’s process of confession and repentance look like in our present-day context?**
- 2.) What are some fundamentally good things God has called you to let go of in order to walk in deeper fellowship with Him? (relationships, career, money, etc.)**
- 3.) What might He be calling you to let go of today?**

Week 5: The Practice of Repentance: OUT

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. One of the ways that keeps true hunger for God happening is our relationship with those that are in our group or church.

Just like last week, we will be going through Psalm 51 to help us process together what true repentance looks like as it relates to God, to fellow believers, and to the people around us. This week we will work through the “OUT” dimension as it relates to God.

1. There are two categories of sin: Sins of commission and sins of Omission
 - Sins of commission: Things that you SHOULD NOT do but do anyway.
 - Sins of omission: Things that you SHOULD DO but don't do.
2. Open your Bibles or devices to Psalm 51. Read through the entire passage.
3. Read through this list together of OUT questions.
4. What are the questions that God might be leading you to? What is getting your attention? Ask God to search your heart to see if there is something that He wants to show you?

OUT --- Love for those in the World

- Am I grieved over the destiny of the lost and do I hurt for them?
- Do I share my faith with outsiders by both lifestyle AND words?
- Do I fear God or man when it comes to sharing the gospel (am I ashamed)?
- Am I judgmental or compassionate toward people who live in rebellion against God?
- Am I trying to bring God's kingdom to earth holistically (physical healing, spiritual healing, etc.)
 - Am I willing to take risks for God in my job, family, and friends for the gospel?
- Do I have relationships with those outside of faith, and do I open my life and home to them?
- In lieu of the election coming up, does my attitude and speech reflect Jesus when it comes to people who have different worldviews than I do?

Q: Has God given you some specific people of peace that you have yet to pursue because of a “Jonah attitude?”

4. Spend several minutes in silent prayer acknowledging that The Holy Spirit is present and ready to work. Go through this process as a group identifying, discussing, and confessing to each other.

1. Define the sin
 - a. “Lord, I am bitter towards.....”
 - b. “Lord, I have been holding a grudge against....”
 - c. Lord, I have been neglecting real community because.....”
 - d. Lord, I have had negative thoughts and interactions with those I consider to be different than me.....”
2. Appeal to God’s mercy (v.1) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.
3. Don’t be defensive (v.4) against you, and only you, have I sinned...
4. Look to Jesus’ Work for you! (v.7) cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean...
5. Feel the brokenness of this sin and ask God to heal you (v.8) let my crushed bones be healed!
6. Allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you (v.11) The grief you’re experiencing is a sign that the Holy Spirit is working in you!
7. Declare truth and celebrate His goodness (v. 12-15)
8. Resolve to believe and obey!
9. Carry out a plan and be accountable to the group or to someone else!

Just like last week, as a closing to your practice of repentance and prayer. It’s a powerful statement to remind each other that we are forgiven! One of the enemy’s strategies is to make us believe that some of our sins have not yet been forgiven. He does this to keep control over our lives. However, when we confess with confidence that all of our sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus, we experience victory. Right now, proclaim that by the blood of Jesus, all of your sins have been forgiven.

Say to each other: “**You are forgiven by the blood of Jesus!** “

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 Repentance: OUT

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