



"So the people of Nineveh believed God." Jonah 3:5

Bible Study: Read Jonah 1-4. Consider God's love in desiring to send a message of hope and love to a city that was sinful and rebellious, and consider Jonah's response to God's mercy FOR SOMEONE ELSE (hint: it was not a picture of a thankful, loving heart).

The Gospel in the Story: At the Heart of the Gospel is the good news that God's love is so powerful that nothing can stop him from reaching in and saving people who don't deserve it. The story of Jonah is also prophetic in that Jonah bringing a message of mercy and hope to a city, points to Jesus, who is God, and came to deliver His message of Love and Hope to all people for all time. AND, because Jesus is God, he not only delivered the message personally, but did the work of making atonement for our sins through His shed blood. Jonah's three days in the giant fish points to Jesus' three days in the grave before His resurrection.

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: What did God tell Jonah to do? A: Go to Ninevah

Q: Did Jonah obey? A: No. He went in the opposite direction

Q: How did God show mercy and grace to Jonah? A: He kept him alive in the belly of the fish

Q: How do we see God's sovereignty in this story? A: Jonah ran, but God used a fish to deliver him to Ninevah!

Q: How did God show mercy and grace to the city of Ninevah? A: By sending Jonah to deliver a message of hope

Q: How did the people of Ninevah respond? A: They believed God's message, and repented.

Q: Why wasn't Jonah excited that the Ninevites repented? A: Because he didn't understand the profound depths of Mercy (Micah 6:8)

Heart: **Memory Verse**

"So the people of Nineveh believed God." Jonah 3:5

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

This story highlights the wickedness of our own heart. Our sin nature is very selfish. Discuss reasons why it was hard for Jonah to do what God wanted him to do.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

Often, those who are closest to us are the least likely to receive mercy from us, because our sin nature is very selfish. Consider the MASSIVE amount of mercy you have received from God, and discuss how that can help show more mercy and grace to our family members.

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

If you know someone who you feel doesn't deserve forgiveness, let this story of God's mercy perform a transforming work in your heart. Go to that person and let them know that you care about them UNCONDITIONALLY, because that is the kind of mercy and grace you've received from Jesus