

LIFE TOGETHER

The God of Second Chances – Jonah 3
November 6, 2016

“Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” -**Jonah 3:9**

I. YET FORTY DAYS

- Jonah is sent to Nineveh with a declaration of war (Isa. 22:1-8; John 3:16-21; 8:23-24; Rev. 2:16).
- God’s message through Jonah is direct and simple:
 1. The shortness of time (Job 14).
 2. The vagueness of the warning (Acts 17:30-31).

II. THE GOD OF MERCY

- Jonah, who knew God to be merciful, hoped he would not be. The king, who did not know God and had no reason to believe he was merciful, hoped he would be (vs. 9; 4:2).
- They were both proved right. At the heart of God there is mercy (vs. 10).
- True repentance leads us to action. Repentance is proven not just by words, but by following up on those words (2 Cor. 7:10; James 2:26).
- The people of Nineveh discovered the heart of God (Ex. 34:5-7; Joel 2:12-14).

III. SECOND CHANCES AT LIFEPOINT

- Will we offer mercy and forgiveness? (Matt. 18:21-35)
- Will we warn one another in Christian love? (Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:14-15)
- Will we bear one another’s burdens? (Gal. 6:2)
- Will we love as we have been loved? (John 13:34)
- Will we do good to one another? (Luke 6:35; Gal. 6:10)
- Will we confess to each other and pray for one another? (James 5:16)
- Will people know we are Christ’s servants? (John 13:35)

KNOW: God has a big heart. Bigger than ours. We must learn to offer mercy and forgiveness to one another. We must learn to accept repentance. We must learn to love one another as God has loved us.

DO: Be gracious toward one another.

Suggested Reading:

What’s So Amazing About Grace? by Phillip Yancey
Life Together, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Les Miserables, by Victor Hugo

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Jonah 3

1. Jonah is a reluctant missionary. Why does God keep using him? Why not find someone else with a heart for it?
2. Compare the attitudes and reactions of Jonah to those of the Ninevites. What are the main differences?
3. What caused God to “relent” and not destroy Nineveh? Does that make God fickle? Unwilling to act?
4. How can we be a more loving church family at LifePoint?
5. Are there circumstances when, even as Christians, we assume that a person should not be forgiven? Is that right Biblically?
6. Share together your own stories of second (and third, fourth, etc.) chances you’ve received from God.