

1. Why did God tell Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh? Why do you think Jonah did not want to go?
2. What did Jonah do? Was there anything wrong with the idea of going to Tarshish? Why was it a problem for Jonah to go to Tarshish? When have you resisted obeying God (that is nice way of saying disobeyed God)?
3. Read Jonah 1:3. What is meant when the text says that Jonah went “away from the presence of the Lord”? Have you ever felt like you were in a similar situation?
4. People usually try to excuse their disobedience. What is your favorite path of rationalization?
  - a. It just didn't work out
  - b. My spouse did not want to
  - c. There was not enough money
  - d. It's not the right time of life for us
  - e. I don't trust those people
5. What is the difference between a reason we need to do something else and an excuse not to follow God's will?
6. In chapter 1, what two things from nature did God use to change Jonah's direction? When has God used things in your life that significantly changed you or your direction?
7. What do you think the ship's captain thought of Jonah when he found the prophet sleeping during the storm? Do you ever notice that people seem oblivious to the situation when dangerous and important events are happening? How do you handle that?
8. In order to figure out whose fault the storm was, the mariners cast lots (similar to drawing straws). The lot, of course fell to Jonah. When asked, “What did you do”, what did Jonah say?
9. God sometimes uses our imperfections as a witness to others. When has God done this with you?
10. In order to stop the storm Jonah insisted that the mariners throw him overboard. When they finally did, what happened? How did the mariners respond?
11. Who does our disobedience to God hurt?

Pray as a group over what you've studied today.

*If anyone has not listened to the Week 1 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

1. As you read Jonah 2, realize that the prophet was in the digestive system of a large fish. Were that you inside the fish, which emotions would you experience? What would you pray?
2. If God can hear Jonah's prayer from inside the fish, He can hear you praying to Him from wherever you may be. Though you have never been inside a fish, you may have prayed in repentance from a very awkward place. Where were you when you realized your need to repent?
3. In Jonah's prayer (2:3), he credited God as being the One who cast him into the sea. How did he reach this conclusion? When has God put you in a bad situation because of your sin?
4. What glimmer of hope do you read from Jonah in 2:4? What does that kind of hope mean to people who are being disciplined by God?
5. Jonah realized that he was drowning in 2:5-7. During that moment of panic what would your thoughts of God be?
6. How does a person's loyalty to idols cause them to forsake hope of rescue (2:8)? What are the idols that distract you from God's love?
7. Why would Jonah consider thanking God while still inside the fish? When is the darkest time that you realized God's goodness and though your circumstances seemed very bad you felt like praising God?
8. As you read chapter 2 you see that, in view of Jonah's prayer, God caused the fish to vomit Jonah onto the land. How must this experience have shaped the prophet's thinking?
9. What was a major consequence of your sin? Did God ever release you from that consequence?
10. Is there a difference between repentance and asking God that your punishment be removed?
11. Is there a connection between the discipline we receive from God and the work we do for God?

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 2 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

1. Read Jonah 3 in its entirety. In the beginning of the chapter we are told that the Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. When has God given you a desperately needed second chance?
2. Why was Jonah willing to go to Nineveh upon the second request?
3. Is second chance obedience less important than first chance obedience?
4. If you were a citizen of Nineveh what would you have thought of Jonah and his message?
5. Why did the people believe this message from God?
6. Do you think the people of Nineveh believed that they deserved God's judgment? How important is it to belief and repentance that people understand their guilt before God?
7. How is fasting related to repentance?
8. Do you sorrow for your sin so deeply that you would fast in repentance? Do people usually take sin that seriously?
9. How did God respond to their repentance?
10. How do you respond to God's forgiveness?
11. Why would God forgive repentant people if they really deserve punishment? Does this make God unjust?
12. When God forgives people you do not like, does that make you angry?

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 3 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

1. Jonah 4 opens with the statement that God's forgiveness of the people of Nineveh displeased Jonah. When have you been displeased with the Lord?
2. Why was Jonah displeased with the Lord? Why had Jonah fled in chapter 1?
3. Jonah went to sit and wait to east of the city. What did he hope would happen? What does this tell us about Jonah?
4. How many times does the word "provided" (NIV) or "appointed" (ESV) occur in verses 6-8? Why did God construct this series of events?
5. When has God taught you a lesson about His love for people? What about this lesson was hard to receive?
6. God's confrontation with Jonah revealed the shortcomings of Jonah's concern for non-Jewish people. What in your life might you value more than people?
7. How many people were in Nineveh?
8. Why might people, like Jonah, take more delight in the punishment and destruction of others than in their repentance?
9. We are often guilty of focusing more on events or things than people. How can we increase our love for other people?
10. Is God glorified more in the punishment of sin or in the forgiveness of sin?

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 4 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*