



## What In The World

What in the world does God want for me?

Jonah 3, Luke 13, Ezekiel 33

Let's face it, we love the idea of grace when it comes to our own need, our own shortcomings, and our own failure. But when it comes to the sin of others, we like justice. This is the experience Jonah is walking through. God has just shown Jonah his indescribable mercy, preserving his life after being thrown into the stormy sea and spending three days in the belly of a fish, and now he's being asked to take that same gift of hope to the people of Nineveh.

### **Read: Jonah 3:1-5**

Q: Why do you think we are so eager to accept grace for ourselves, but so hesitant to extend it to others?

Q: Can you think of a time when you have struggled to extend grace to another?

Q: Do you have a tendency to "grade" sins?

Q: Be honest, is there a shortcoming in your own life you like to think of as "less offensive" to God than some of the other awful things you see in others?

Q: Why is it important that we grasp "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?" (Romans 3:23). Where does this point *all of us* to?

When a street preacher comes to town with a message of doom and destruction, most of us blow them off with an assumption of mental instability or at least overzealous religiosity (and for most of them, this would be an accurate assessment). But when Jonah walks through the streets of a city "so large it took three days to see it all," yelling "repent!" the people (including the King) immediately listened to his message.

### **Read Jonah 3:7-10**

Q: The mercy of God does not forgo His commands and decrees (His Law). Why is the Law of God vitally important to the grace of God?

"A high view of law equals a high view of grace. A low view of law equals a low view of grace." –Tullian Tchividjian

Q: The above quote seems counterintuitive. How can it be true?

# **life group study guide**

**April 6, 2014**

## **Read Luke 13:1-5**

Q: What do you think it means to *repent*?

Q: How can the crushing demands of a Holy God drive us to repentance?

Q: What do we find on the other side of repentance?

## **Read: Luke 13:6-9**

**(This is a sobering, somewhat scary passage of Scripture).**

Q: How does a tree bear fruit? Can it create new life on its own?

Q: Where are the roots of a fruit-bearing tree grounded?

Q: How do we bear fruit? By our own efforts? How can we be assured our lives will bear fruit?

God takes no pleasure in the destruction of sinful people. At the cross, all of our sin was laid upon Jesus so that when we repent and turn to Him, all of His righteousness can be laid upon us. But sin is nothing to take lightly. God's grace doesn't *ignore* our sin, but it is the only thing that can cover our sin. Let's take a look at a difficult passage that reveals the seriousness of sin before a holy God.

## **Read: Ezekiel 33:10-11**

Q: How does God reveal his heart toward broken people in this passage?

Q: What is the only thing God wants mankind to do when it comes to our sin?

## **Read: Ezekiel 33:12-16**

Q: In the Old Testament, the Law held God's people as they looked *forward* to the coming work of Jesus. We now look back on the *finished* work of Christ. How do we see that in this passage of Scripture?

Q: Jesus raised the bar on the definition of sin (see the Sermon on the Mount). Not only is our outward behavior judged, but the hidden places of our heart are judged as well. Is there hope for any of us on our own?

Q: Why do passages of Scripture like this make the Gospel even better news?