

## ***“Jonah: No Lost Causes”***

**Growth Group Guide**

**November 16, 2025**

### **WELCOME** *(Connecting with each other)*

In Jonah 3:10, we read about the repentance of the huge city of Nineveh. Imagine 120,000 people having a revival! Have you ever been in a modern-day revival? Maybe at a crusade, college campus, or open-air meeting? What was that like? How did it impact you and your walk with God?

### **WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER** *(Connecting with God)*

Read the prayer below. Celebrate that God yearns for all people, through all of time, to repent and be with Him forever.

I worship You, Lord of heaven and earth, the God who made the world and all things in it! I extol You for the immensity of Your love in sending Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior who died for us, and for all people everywhere. I exalt You because Your plan embraces the whole world and all of time ... not just the Middle East, which cradled the gospel, but also Europe and North America, Asia and Africa, the entire southern hemisphere, and every tiny island on the globe. Thank You that Jesus, with His blood, purchased sons and daughters for You from every tribe and language and people and nation ... You have no desire that any person should spend eternity without You! Thank You that You made Your light shine in my heart ... and that you have enlisted me in Your worldwide task force, to be Your witness. What a high privilege, that You have destined me to have a share not only in Your love but also in Your Glorious purposes, both near and far. ... I celebrate my high calling of knowing You and making You known! ‘Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.’ [Psalm 57:11]” (\*Myers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise, Day 30. Kindle.)

### **WORD** *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. We are halfway through Jonah. What have been some key takeaways for you so far from this book?
2. **Read Jonah 3:1-3a NIV.** God is usually thought of as having a short fuse, if we fail, that’s it! He’s going to blast us. How is that view of God shown to be incorrect in these verses? How is God acting toward Jonah, who’s done nothing but fight Him at every step?
3. Do you think God is only concerned about correct performance, why or why not? After answering this question **read Psalm 51:16-17.** What does David say that God is most concerned with? How would you put that into your own words?
4. **Read Jonah 3:3b-4 NIV.** God makes an impossible ask of Jonah. If he’s to bring God’s message to Nineveh in his own strength. However, God is with Him, and what God asks, He also supplies the ability and power to do. Has God ever asked something that seemed impossible

to you? How did He provide you the ability and power to do what He asked?

5. **Read Jonah 3:5-9 NIV.** How would you describe Nineveh’s response to God’s message? How was their response to God’s message different from Jonah’s response to God’s messages to him? What can we learn from Nineveh’s example when God is speaking to us about something?
6. Jonah was only a physical sign of passing from death to life. We on the other hand are spiritual signs of those who are alive from the dead (**read Romans 6:13**). How would you describe the difference?
7. Jonah was reluctant, stubborn, and obstinate in what God was asking him to do. This shows God can work despite fleshly living, but it’s better if He doesn’t have to. It’s best for people to SEE God living in and through someone. For us today, that person can be a spiritual sign of Jonah. It’s a person who lives their new life in Jesus showing God can resurrect anyone from spiritual death. There are no lost causes. Look at the process again of how God accomplishes this in us: 1) We give ourselves completely to God and align our will under His, 2) we are conformed to Jesus’s death not giving any part of ourselves to sin and fleshly living, and 3) we live a new spiritual life in Him by the Spirit. Which parts of this process are God’s responsibility and ours?
8. Summarize the qualities of God we see in this lesson. Share a favorite.
9. Share the names of people in your life, or places, who might be your “Nineveh.” Close in prayer for them and ask God to show them through us that they can move from spiritual death to life in Christ.

### **WALK** *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Living our new life in Jesus shows others God can resurrect anyone from spiritual death.** We are half-way through Jonah. How are you growing? What are you learning? Are you stuck on any part of the process from question #7? This week do a quick debrief with God using these questions. Praise for the praiseworthy things you discover and pray about the needs you discover.

### **WORLD** *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

From Haitian Christian Mission, November 4<sup>th</sup> newsletter: Hope after Hurricane Melissa. As we enter November, we are reminded how quickly life can change, and how faithful God remains through every storm, every challenge, and every new beginning. Let us continue to pray for Jamaica and Cuba. In Haiti, Hurricane Melissa brought heavy rains and flooding to several areas, especially near Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, and Chapotin. Many families have lost belongings, homes, and crops. Roads and bridges have also been damaged, making it difficult for people to travel or receive supplies. Our local church communities and HCM staff have been checking on families and providing what support we can. Please continue to pray for those affected, that God will give them comfort, safety, and hope as recovery begins. We also ask for wisdom and strength for our HCM team as they help rebuild communities one step at a time.

*[Copies of this Guide are available at <https://thurston.church/resources>]*