



# FAITH CONNECTIONS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2021  
"A Severe & Sovereign Mercy" – Jonah 1-4<sup>1</sup>

*Open in prayer...*

## STARTER QUESTIONS

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Have you ever experienced a uniquely **severe** storm? What do you remember about that experience?

Have you ever been shown mercy? How did that experience change you?

## DISCUSSION

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- 1.) What was the most encouraging, troubling, or challenging thought from Sunday's sermon?
- 2.) Sunday's outline was rather lengthy... Overall, it was broken down into the 4 chapters of Jonah. Which of the chapters/subpoints impacted you the most at this juncture in life?
- 3.) Can you think of a time when God has prompted you to do something difficult or inconvenient? How did you respond?
- 4.) Can you think of an unpleasant time in your life where God used it to refocus your attention back to him?
- 5.) How does Jonah's attitude toward the Ninevites compare to the sailor's attitude toward him? How does God's compassion compare to Jonah's?

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<sup>1</sup> Parts of this discussion guide are taken/adapted from "Jonah Study Guide" by Summit View Church. Accessed <https://summitview.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jonah-Study-Guide-1.pdf>

## STUDY

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- 1.) Jonah is very familiar with God's character. He knows what God is like and how he will act. This is due to Jonah's familiarity with the Torah/Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible).

Read Exodus 34:5-8

How does God describe himself in these verses? What themes overlap with God's character and action in the book of Jonah?

- 2.) Jonah's prayer in chapter 2 is a psalm of thanksgiving. As a group, divide up the other psalms listed below and identify/discuss their similarities:

- Psalm 30
- Psalm 34
- Psalm 66
- Psalm 73
- Psalm 105
- Psalm 106

Do your prayers regularly contain the same qualities/characteristics?

- 3.) Repentance is a major theme in the book of Jonah. In 2 Corinthians 7, Paul talks about the characteristics of genuine repentance.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-13.

What are some of the qualities/behaviors that accompany genuine repentance? (Hint: Look closely at v. 11)

## APPLICATION

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- 1.) Do you picture God as a God of the nations, or just your own little world? Is God's grace limited to only "good" people?
- 2.) We are much like Jonah. We want to receive God's forgiveness, but we are not always willing to extend it to others. Who is it that you need to extend genuine forgiveness to? Consider asking an individual or your entire group to encourage you to keep this commitment of forgiveness.
- 3.) God hears the cries of his people as he heard Jonah cry out from the belly of the great fish. What is your biggest prayer need? Take plenty of time to pray for each other.