

STUDY GUIDE

J O N A H A N D N A H U M

The Depths of God's Mercy

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ, STEF DOWD
& ROBIN HALL

THEREFORE, AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, SO WALK IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING. – *COLOSSIANS 2:6-7*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Morning Bible Study at Richland Creek Community Church!

Morning Bible Study exists to glorify God. We help women grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ by teaching them to love God in His Word (both individually and corporately) and to love others through biblical fellowship.

*“...if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.” – Proverbs 2:1-5*

Our goal is sanctification and spiritual maturity—that you would be conformed to the image of Christ and reflect His character. This internal transformation occurs, by the grace of God, throughout a believer’s life. Though it is God who does the work in us, spiritual growth requires our participation. By daily increasing in obedience and submission to the authority of God’s inspired, inerrant, infallible written Word, we will grow in Christlikeness.

Be intentional. As you spend time reading, listening to, and studying the Bible this semester, pray that God inclines your heart to His testimonies. Ask Him to give you eyes to see and ears to hear the truth of His Word—that you may know and rightly understand who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for you. May the depths of God’s rich mercy draw you to worship and adore Him like never before.

When we finish, I pray we will all look more like Jesus than when we started!

Love in Christ,

Elizabeth Rodriguez
Lead Teacher, Morning Bible Study



The Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh (Jon. 1:2), the capital of Assyria, about 550 miles northeast of Israel. Instead, Jonah boarded a ship bound for Tarsish—a destination that may have been as far as 2,500 miles in the opposite direction.

Tarshish (Jon. 1:3), believed by many to have been a seaport or region in southern Spain.

Joppa (Jon. 1:3; see Acts 9:42), the only natural harbor in Israel south of Acco, and probably the closest one available to the fleeing prophet.

Samaría, capital of Israel (see 1 Kin. 16:24).

Nineveh (Jon. 1:2), capital of the Assyrian Empire in Jonah's time.

Jerusalem, capital of Judah.

Map Labels: SPAIN, CORSICA, SARDINIA, ITALY, MACEDONIA, ASIA, CYPRUS, CRETE, EGYPT, N. AFRICA, Hamath, Tyre, Gath-hepher, Samaria, Joppa, Aleppo, Carchemish, Nineveh.

Scale: 0 250 500 Miles

TABLE OF CONTENTS

and Schedule

How to Use This Study Guide	6
JANUARY 26	
Lesson One, The Grand Narrative	8
FEBRUARY 2	
Lesson Two, Context.	14
FEBRUARY 9	
Lesson Three, Jonah 1:1-16.	24
FEBRUARY 16	
Lesson Four, Jonah 1:17-2:10	38
FEBRUARY 23	
Lesson Five, Prayer Week	52
MARCH 2	
Lesson Six, Jonah 3	62
MARCH 9	
Lesson Seven, Jonah 4.	76
MARCH 16	
Lesson Eight, Luke 15:11-32.	88
MARCH 23	
Lesson Nine, Nahum 1.	102
MARCH 30	
Lesson Ten, Nahum 2	112
APRIL 6	
Lesson Eleven, Nahum 3	126
APRIL 13	
Lesson Twelve, Praise Day	142
Appendix 1, Attributes of God	148
Appendix 2, Text of Jonah	150
Appendix 3, Text of Nahum	154
Appendix 4, Memory Passage.	161
Appendix 5, Resources.	162
Appendix 6, Goal Plan	163

How to Study the Bible

AND

How to Use This Study Guide

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of Bible study is to know God and to be transformed into His image.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

The purpose of this study guide is to lead you through the following Bible study process as you study in relationship with other believers at Richland Creek.

THE PROCESS

Pray Continually - Read Repeatedly

Pray throughout your study time. Approach God in humility, realizing that the Bible is a spiritual book and cannot be understood apart from the Spirit of God.

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name." Psalm 86:11

The study guide will prompt you to read through our chosen text repeatedly. At the beginning of each week, we will zoom out, reading or listening to (on a Bible app or audio book) the whole chapter or a large section in one sitting, in order to understand the main points and context. Then we will zoom in to focus on details. At the end of the week, we will have the opportunity to zoom back out and reflect on the passage as a whole.

Observation – What does the text say?

The first step to understanding a passage is basic observation. At this point the main goal is comprehension of the passage. What is the author communicating? After listening to or reading the week's passage as a whole, we will encourage you to write a brief list of the main points or events (you can use your Bible's section titles for help). To get at what the text specifically says, we will then look at many of the details and how each detail contributes to the whole of the passage. As you continue to pray and read, the study guide will lead you to answer basic questions. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? As you do this, continue to pay attention to the context. How does this verse relate to the ones before it, to the ones after it, to the book as a whole, and to other passages in the Bible? There will be opportunities to note things that are repeated, compared, or contrasted. Feel free to jot down additional things that you notice as you go. The majority of the study guide is devoted to this stage of the process.

Interpretation – What does the text mean?

After you have made observations and have a basic comprehension of the passage, the next goal in Bible study is interpretation – to understand the author’s message. Jesus would often say after he taught,

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Matthew 11:15

Clearly, the crowd had heard his words, but did they understand his message? Similarly, we must dig further to make sure that we understand the author’s intended purpose for the passage. How does the author tell his story or build his argument? How does this story or teaching fit into the overarching story of God’s work of salvation? What was the significance to the original audience? This is a good time to check cross-references (these found in the margin or at the bottom of Bibles that have cross-references). They will help you find other passages in the Bible that utilize the same words or themes. If you are looking at an unclear passage, often a more clear passage on the same topic will help you gain understanding. This study guide will include some of these cross-references, but look at others from your Bible as well. Pray for spiritual ears to hear God’s message.

While there are some questions focused on this stage in the study guide, understanding the meaning of the message will be the primary focus of the teaching time each Wednesday. One quick note of encouragement: We strongly recommend that you focus your study time at home on the study of the Bible passage without the aid of commentaries or study Bible notes. While these tools are helpful, they are not God’s infallible Word. And they often prevent you from the joy of growing in personal Bible study skills. If you do want to consult these helps, the best time to do that is after your personal study time and the group time.

Application – What do I do with what I’ve learned?

All Scripture is useful and beneficial for daily life and doctrine, according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” 2 Peter 1:3

It is through the knowledge of God and His words that we will be equipped for life. But study alone is not enough. We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22). Scripture is not truly understood until it is obeyed. Every passage requires that we apply what we have learned by responding to God and His message. We should ask ourselves, “What have I learned about God? How, then, should I change the way I think or speak or act?” We should consider what specific steps are needed to trust, worship, and obey God more faithfully.

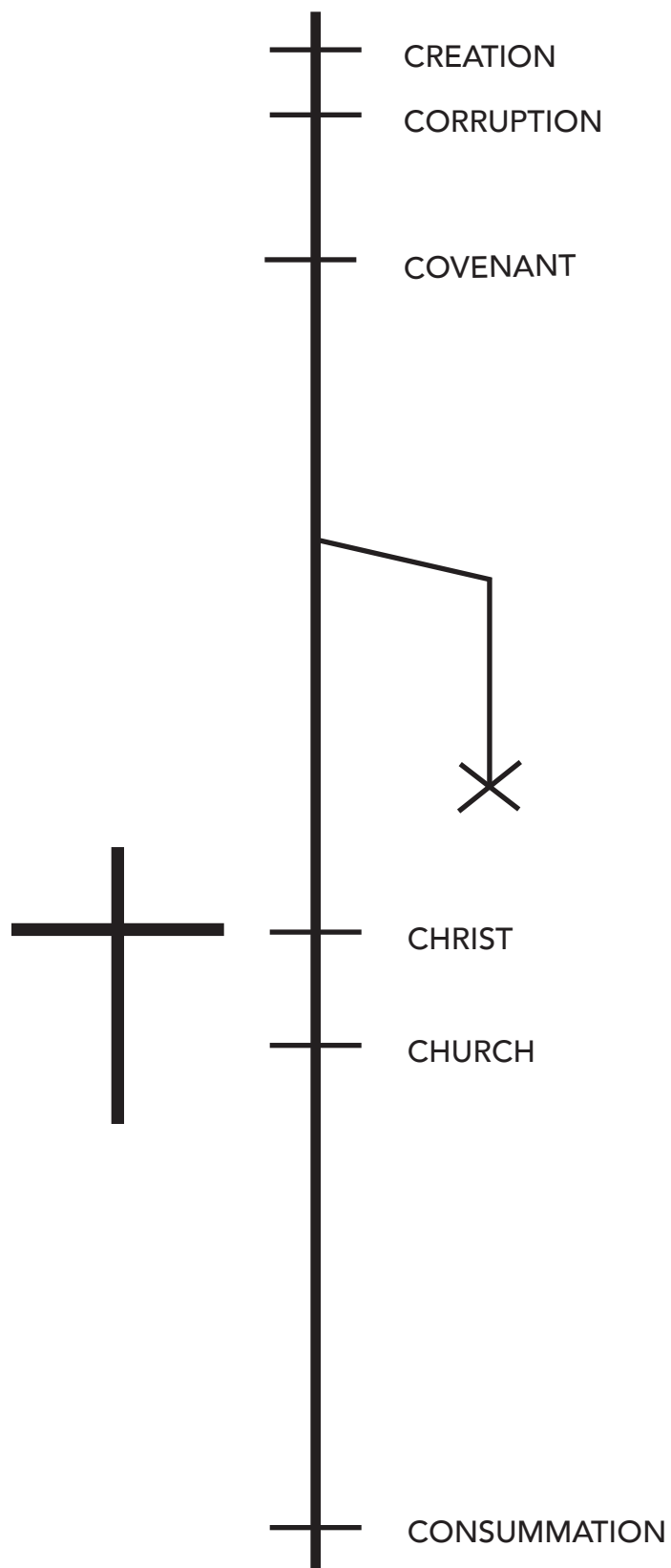
There are some application and response type questions sprinkled throughout the study guide, as you reflect and pray personally at home. Also, the group discussion time will not only review what you have learned throughout the week, but also focus on what our response to the message should be. Obedience is more attainable when we can encourage each other in godliness.

LESSON ONE

The Grand Narrative

The Bible is an intelligently designed, one-of-a-kind book. It is the Word of God written in the words of men. Through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the human authors composed and recorded—without error—God’s witness of Himself. Together, the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament tell one story. This grand narrative is the story of God, in Christ, reconciling humanity to Himself.

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 21)



Lecture Notes

[illegible]

For Personal Reflection

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Discussion Group Leader's choice

PLANS FOR BIBLE STUDY

Our goal is to love God by daily growing in our obedience and submission to His inspired, inerrant, infallible written Word. Ladies, we must be intentional to develop a regular habit of Bible intake. Pray and write down a specific plan for Bible Study. Consider the questions below. Then, fill out the Goal Plan in the back of this study guide (Appendix 6).

When will you study?

Days of the week:

Time of day:

Length of time each day:

What tools will you use? (Bible/Study Bible, Dictionary, Online Tools, etc.)

Where (in what specific physical location) will you study?

LESSON TWO

Context

This lesson will be different from the rest. Before we dive into our study, we must gather information to determine the context for the Book of Jonah. Context shapes the meaning and sets the framework for our understanding of Scripture. Every biblical author wrote to a specific audience to convey a particular message to those hearers at a unique time and place in history. If we impose our own framework on the text—viewing it solely through the eyes of a woman living in present-day America—we might misinterpret what the Bible says. To avoid this common mistake, we will spend this week establishing the **historical context** (the *world* around the text), **literary context** (the *words* around the text), and **biblical context** (how the rest of *God's Word* connects to the text). Studying Jonah through these three “lenses” will magnify God and bring the author’s intended meaning into focus—which will help us view the text through the eyes of the original audience. We must always begin with what the text meant to them, then, before we can rightly apply the timeless message for us, now. With this information, we can reorient ourselves in the context every time we sit down to study.

Day One

FOR REVIEW

Summarize what you learned about the “big story” of the Bible?

Read (or listen to) the whole Book of Jonah in one sitting. Note below the major events in each chapter. (Hint: The bold headings in your Bible will help with this.)

Day Two

HISTORICAL CONTEXT (THE WORLD AROUND THE TEXT)

Read the introduction and background information for the Book of Jonah in a Study Bible or Bible Dictionary, to answer the following questions. (If you do not have these tools, access them online. See Appendix 5 for resource links.)

Who is the author?

Who is the original audience?

When was this book written?

What are the major issues of the day (i.e., the cultural, political, and/or spiritual climate of the original audience)? What prompted the writing of this text?

What additional details might be important to remember as you study in the weeks ahead?

Day Three

HISTORICAL CONTEXT (THE WORLD AROUND THE TEXT)

Though biblical scholars and historians provide invaluable information for us in Study Bible notes and Bible dictionaries, the best resource for context is the Bible itself. Biblical cross-references (the tiny superscript letters with textual references) link us to the same person, place, word, subject, or theme elsewhere in Scripture and often (not always) give us the insight to increase our understanding of the context and meaning of a passage.

Read Jonah 1:1-2. If your Bible has cross-references, you will likely see a small letter next to the words "Jonah" and "Nineveh." At the bottom (or another location on the page) you will see the same letters linked to other passages of Scripture. Let's look at a few.

Read 2 Kings 14:23-27 and answer the following questions.

Who was Jonah? What new details does this passage provide about him?

What word(s) does the author use to characterize life in Israel in those days?

What other insight does the passage provide about the time in which Jonah lived and prophesied (i.e., the cultural, political, and spiritual climate)?

Read Genesis 10:1, 6-12; Nahum 1:1-3; and Zephaniah 2:13-15. What do these passages reveal about Nineveh?

If your Bible has cross-references, select one from Jonah 1:1-2. Note the reference below and any additional details that might be helpful to remember in the weeks ahead.

Day Four

LITERARY CONTEXT (THE WORDS AROUND THE TEXT)

What literary genre best describes the Book of Jonah?

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Narrative
- ☐ Prophecy
- ☐ Wisdom

What book of the Bible comes before the Book of Jonah?

Read or listen to the final chapter of the book you named above (the chapter that immediately precedes Jonah 1), focusing on verses 10-15 to answer the following questions. [Note: The chosen nation of Israel and the people of Judah descended from Jacob. The Edomites descended from Esau, Jacob's twin brother. Though the people of Edom and Israel are "brothers," they became bitter enemies.]

What is the overall theme of this passage?

What repeated word in verses 12 and 13 describes the attitude of the heart the Lord condemns in this passage (See verse 3 for a hint)?

Over and over, the LORD warns Edom, "Do not..." Why? What is His reason, according to the text?

What book of the Bible comes after the Book of Jonah?

Read or listen to the first chapter of the book you named above (the chapter that immediately follows Jonah 4). Compare and contrast this passage with the previous passage.

What do you notice about the theme of each passage?

What do you notice about the people groups concerned in each passage?

Why might this be a significant detail as we study the Book of Jonah?

The Bible is an intelligently designed, one-of-a-kind book. As we open the pages of Scripture, we must remember that every word, sentence, paragraph, chapter, and book is intentionally organized by the Divine Author to help us better understand the meaning of the text. It may not be clear to you yet, but what we glean from the passages before and after the Book of Jonah will help bring the author's intended meaning into focus in the weeks ahead.

Day Five

BIBLICAL CONTEXT (HOW THE REST OF GOD'S WORD CONNECTS TO THE TEXT)

How does the Book of Jonah connect with the rest of Scripture? Where does the Book of Jonah fit within the "big story" of the Bible? (Hint: Flip back to the Grand Narrative Timeline in Lesson One.)

As you read through the Book of Jonah this week, did you notice any citations or allusions to other passages of Scripture?

Look back over your notes from the Grand Narrative last week and review the context information you gathered. Why is the Book of Jonah at this specific spot in the Bible? How does the Book of Jonah contribute to the overall message of the Scriptures? [Note: If you are not ready to answer this question, don't worry. Just be sure to keep it in mind as you work your way through Jonah. When we reach the end, you will be able to answer this key question.]

For Personal Reflection

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Has anyone ever taken your words out of context—either something you said or something you wrote?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. As you read and gathered information this week, what aspect of God's character stood out above all? Why?
2. The Bible is about God. We study the Scriptures—in context—to magnify Him and rightly understand the author's message. If we forget this important truth, what are the consequences?
3. Read Obadiah 10-15. What does this text teach us about the attitude of our heart toward others (family, friends, and foes)? Why does this matter to God?
4. Jacob and Esau's troubled past caused division and animosity within their family—for generations. Theirs is an example to avoid. How can you glorify God and build trust as an example of unity, grace, and kindness in your family?
5. What did you learn about the time in which Jonah lived and prophesied? In what way(s) is the world in which we live similar/different?
6. "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you..." What does the message of Obadiah 15 mean for those who are in Christ? What does it mean for those who are not in Christ? How will you respond?
7. If you studied Jonah before, or are familiar with the story, did you learn anything new this week? Did this new information/insight impact your view of God or Jonah? In what way?
8. How did what you gleaned this week compare/contrast with "worldly wisdom" today?
9. Micah 1 speaks of the "transgression" and the coming destruction of God's chosen people. What a sobering passage. The very ones who should have been characterized by faithfulness were faithless and idolatrous. How are we like them? What can we learn from their mistakes?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christlikeness?

LESSON THREE

Jonah 1:1-16

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah... ‘Arise, go to Nineveh...’ But Jonah rose to flee...”

So begins the account of the prophet who refused to prophesy. Instead of carrying God’s Word of warning to his enemies, Jonah boarded a ship bound for the other side of the world. Though he ran, God’s man could not hide from the presence of the LORD. Despite his self-imposed exile, the LORD pursued Jonah. In a fantastic display of His sovereign power, the “God of heaven” hurled a great tempest upon the sea. Though his disobedience placed everyone in mortal danger, it was only when the lot fell on Jonah that he finally confessed the truth. Jonah said he feared God, but only the mariners obeyed and demonstrated genuine fear of the LORD as they cast Jonah into the sea. Jonah’s sinful, rebellious response could not thwart the LORD’s purposes.

Day One

FOR REVIEW (CONTEXT)

What did you glean from the information you gathered last week? What specific details will be most helpful to recall every time you open your Bible to study the book of Jonah? (Hint: Your goal is to view the text through the eyes of the original audience.)

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Jonah 1-4, circling every occurrence of the word(s) "LORD" or "the LORD" on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ JONAH 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-3 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What was the message that the LORD spoke to Jonah?

What was Jonah's response to the LORD's instructions?

Look at your map. Find Israel (Jonah's starting location). Then, find Nineveh and Tarshish. What does this information tell you about Jonah's intentions?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What repeated phrase do you find in verse 3 that explains not only Jonah's directional intentions but also his spiritual condition at this point? Fill in the blanks.

In verse 2, the LORD describes Nineveh as "that great city." Look at Jonah 3:3 and 4:11 and note below the size and population of the city.

Why did the LORD send Jonah to Nineveh (verse 2)?

APPLICATION

God's instructions for Jonah were clear, yet Jonah purposefully disobeyed and went the opposite direction. Are there any instructions given to believers in the Scriptures that you clearly understand, yet have purposefully disobeyed? Search your heart and ask God to reveal to you why you have refused to trust Him with that area of your life. Write your thoughts below.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Jonah was attempting to get away "from the presence of the LORD." Read Psalm 139:7-12. Why was Jonah's plan impossible? Note what you learn about the LORD's presence below.

Day Three

READ JONAH 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 4-6 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What was the LORD's response to Jonah's attempt to flee from His presence (verse 4)?

Read through today's passage and list below any words or phrases that indicate the severity of the storm.

Contrast below the mariners' activities during the storm versus Jonah's activity:

Mariners

Jonah

What instructions did the captain give to Jonah? Why might this be a challenge for Jonah?

What other man went to sleep in a boat during a terrible storm? Read Matthew 8:23-27.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Look again at the Matthew passage and note below the similarities and differences you see between these two men and their situations.

Similarities:

Differences:

APPLICATION

Jonah ran but he couldn't hide from God. Have you ever tried to hide or hide your sin from God? What does His pursuit of us say about God? Read, for example, Romans 2:4.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read below more stories about people who tried to hide or tried to hide their sin from God. What do you learn from each story? Note evidence of God's discipline and evidence of His grace as He seeks them out. Can you think of any other examples?

Genesis 3

2 Samuel 11-12

Other examples

Day Four

READ JONAH 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 7-10 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

In their desperation to find answers, how did the men decide what to do next (verse 7)? What was the result?

What did Jonah reveal about himself after their barrage of questions?

What did Jonah reveal about his God?

Why would this description of God concern the mariners?

Jonah reports that he “fears” the God of heaven. The passage also says that the mariners were “exceedingly afraid.” At this point in the story, what do you think Jonah fears most? What about the mariners? How do their actions support this?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

When Jonah made his decision to get on the ship headed to Tarshish, who else would this decision eventually affect? In what ways?

APPLICATION

Have you ever made a bad decision that hurt other people, even if you didn't mean to? Has someone ever made a bad decision that hurt you? What can we do in the future to prevent ourselves from making rash decisions?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

According to the law, true fear of God would lead to obedience. Read the following passages and note what you learn:

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Deuteronomy 13:4

Note the context of the above passage (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). What does this passage tell us about the purpose of a prophet? Do you think a prophet would be effective at this purpose if he himself was walking in rebellion?

Day Five

READ JONAH 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 11-16 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What was Jonah's solution to the problem? Why did he come to this conclusion?

How did the men respond to Jonah's instructions (verse 13)? What do their actions say about their intentions?

To whom did the men pray in verse 14? How is this different from verse 5?

Write below their two requests to the LORD, in your own words.

Request 1:

Request 2:

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Chart the activity of the sea below, as well as what each verse says about what caused this activity (for the verses that state the reason).

Verse 4:

Verse 11:

Verse 13:

Verse 15:

Read verses 5, 10, and 14-16 again. How does the mariners' fear change over time? What is the source of their fear by verse 16? How is this fear displayed?

APPLICATION

After their encounter with the LORD, the mariners prayed to Him for mercy, then they offered sacrifices to Him. Their fear of God was matched with actions consistent with what they now knew to be true of Him. Right beliefs should lead to the right actions. What wrong or incomplete belief in your life might be behind any wrong habits you struggle with?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Jonah 1:15-16 and Luke 8:22-25. Who brought calm to the stormy sea in each account? What was the reaction of those watching in each story?

In each scenario, the calming of the sea was not only instantaneous, and therefore miraculous, but it was also deeply personal. God brought the storm, and then the calm, for a specific purpose for all of the people involved. Write below what God accomplished through the storm in the lives of the people listed.

Jonah

Mariners

Disciples

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Have you, or one of your family members, ever attempted to run away from home as a kid? Tell us what happened.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. There are many characteristics of God on display in this chapter. Choose one or two of the following and discuss what we learn about that attribute from Jonah 1: omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, sovereign, jealous, just, merciful, patient, creator, personal.
2. Jonah intentionally disobeyed God's clear directions. What are some clear commands of God in Scripture that are often disobeyed by professing believers who, like Jonah, should know better?
3. Jonah tried to go "away from the presence of the LORD." What are some ways that we try to hide from God today?
4. The captain told Jonah to pray to his God for mercy, yet the only recorded prayer in chapter 1 is the prayer of the pagan mariners. Why might it have been hard for Jonah to pray at this time? When is it hard for you to pray?
5. What was the purpose of the storm in this chapter: 1) for Jonah, and 2) for the mariners? How can God use "storms" in our lives?
6. Jonah's decision to flee endangered many lives. Have you ever made a bad decision that hurt other people, even though you didn't mean to? Has someone ever made a bad decision that hurt you? What can we do in the future to prevent ourselves from making rash decisions?
7. Who showed more mercy in this story, Jonah or the mariners? Why? In what ways can Christians be unmerciful?
8. We saw in Day 5 that right beliefs should lead to right actions. Jonah said he feared God but his behavior didn't match that statement. What wrong belief might Jonah have had? What wrong beliefs about God are we prone to, that lead to sin?
9. What does God's pursuit of Jonah say about God's character? Can you think of some other examples in Scripture where God sought someone out who was hiding or lost?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christ-likeness?

LESSON FOUR

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Cast into the raging sea, Jonah sank deeper and deeper. Tension grows as the reader anticipates the moment of reckoning for Jonah's continued disobedience. Instead, through divine judgment, the LORD provided an opportunity for restoration. Jonah finally called out to the LORD, and in His infinite grace, the LORD granted Jonah mercy. He appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah—not to destroy him, but to deliver him from certain death. For, "Salvation belongs to the LORD!" With thanksgiving in his heart, Jonah gratefully accepted the mercy he, himself, was reluctant to proclaim.

Day One

FOR REVIEW (JONAH 1:1-16)

Compare and contrast Jonah's fear of the LORD and the mariners' fear of the LORD in Jonah 1.

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Jonah 1-4, double-underlining every occurrence of the word "down" on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ JONAH 1:17-2:10, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1:17-2:2 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Where was Jonah when he finally called out to "the LORD his God"?

Why did Jonah call out to the LORD, according to the text?

List the ways in which the LORD responded to Jonah's cry for help. What does this reveal about God's character?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Look up the word “Sheol” in a Bible Dictionary. Note what you learn in the space below. How does this shed light on, or enhance your understanding of, what Jonah says in this passage?

How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish?

Read Matthew 12:38-40 and Luke 11:29-30. What does Jesus say about this sign?

What is the greater miracle to which Jonah 1:17, Matthew 12:40, and Luke 11:30 point? (Hint: If we only focus on the three days and three nights, we will miss it!)

APPLICATION

You may never be in as deep as Jonah, but have you experienced great distress—perhaps even as a result of your own disobedience? Where did you turn for comfort, or whom did you call for help? Be honest. What can we learn from Jonah?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Jonah's deliverance is beyond extraordinary when one considers that the phrase "swallow up" is indicative of divine judgment and destruction throughout the Old Testament. Read the passages below and note what they say about being "swallowed up."

Numbers 16:20-35

Psalm 21:8-9

Psalm 69:13-15

Proverbs 1:8-12

Day Three

READ JONAH 1:17-2:10, FOCUSING ON 2:3-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Look back at Jonah 1. Who cast Jonah into the sea?

According to Jonah, who cast him "into the deep"? Whose "waves" and "billows" passed over him?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

How do you reconcile Jonah's words with what actually happened? What is he acknowledging about the LORD in his prayer?

Write below Jonah's sobering statement in verse 4a.

What word(s) would you use to describe Jonah's circumstances? What word(s) would you use to describe his attitude? How do they compare?

How do you explain Jonah's attitude? What did Jonah remember? Read 1 Kings 8:38-40.

APPLICATION

In his disobedience and rebellion, Jonah pulled away from the LORD. As he prays, Jonah realizes that the LORD gave him what he asked for. It wasn't until he sank down into the depths of the sea that he felt the fullness of his isolation and broken communion with God. Can you think of anything more frightening than being "driven away" from God? Is divine judgment really better than submission to the LORD? Let's look at another account of someone who was "driven away" from God's "face." Read Genesis 4:1-16. Why should Jonah 2 evoke a response of worship—especially in a backsliding believer?

To recognize what it is like to be “driven away,” or banished from His sight, one must first know what it is like to be in the presence of the LORD and experience communion with Him. How is this passage a word of warning for an unbeliever?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

The imagery in Jonah 2 paints a vivid picture of the waters of judgment. We know from the text that Jonah accepted the LORD’s discipline. How should we respond to God’s discipline? Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What do you learn about the discipline of the LORD from this passage?

Day Four

READ JONAH 1:17-2:10, FOCUSING ON 2:5-7 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

The text leaves no doubt that Jonah was drowning. What two-word phrase does Jonah repeat in verses 5, 6, and 7? What hung in the balance?

What images does Jonah use to describe death and Sheol (the netherworld) in this passage?

Where was the “holy temple” located, according to 2 Chronicles 3:1?

Look at the map in the front of this study guide. Then, look at verse 6, again. How deep was Jonah’s descent—literally (as in, the direction he traveled) and figuratively?

What does Jonah’s descent indicate about the depths of God’s mercy? Read Micah 7:18-19 and explain how this passage is relevant for us today, in Christ?

APPLICATION

We cannot move in two directions at once. When Jonah remembered the LORD and turned his gaze from himself to God, it quite literally changed the direction of his life. Have you become so inwardly focused, or so entangled in sin, that you have forgotten the LORD? Read Lamentations 3:17-24. What specific action can you take to remember the LORD and change direction, today?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Chesed is the Hebrew word for God's covenant-keeping, steadfast love. The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary describes it as, "The Old Testament's highest expression of love." This love brings hope and joy—even in the most difficult and hopeless of circumstances. Select a few of the passages below to read as a reminder of what God's Word says about His "steadfast love." Then, spend time in prayer—right now—praising Him for the ways in which He demonstrates His "steadfast love" for you, and petitioning Him for an opportunity to share what you know with someone you love.

Genesis 32:9-12

Exodus 15:1-13

Exodus 34:4-7

Deuteronomy 7:6-15

2 Samuel 7:8-16

1 Kings 8:22-24

Psalms 36:5-10

Hosea 6:5-7

Day Five

READ JONAH 1:17-2:10, FOCUSING ON 2:8-10 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Consider the context and the original audience. To whom is Jonah referring in verse 8?

Go back and read Jonah 1:15-16. Could Jonah have known, at that moment, what was happening on the ship—what was happening within the mariners' hearts?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What is an idol? Look up the word “idol” and write the definition below. Then, read Isaiah 44:6-20 to see what the LORD says about idolatry. How does this information emphasize Jonah’s point in verse 8?

Compare Jonah 1:16 to Jonah 2:9. Describe what happens in each verse, and why, according to the passage.

Read Psalm 50:13-15 and Psalm 66:8-20. What do these passages teach us about sacrifices, vows, and the steadfast love of the LORD?

Over and over, Jonah gives thanks, but what is missing from Jonah’s prayer? Does Jonah seek forgiveness or admit guilt regarding his disobedience? What does this indicate about Jonah?

Next to the list below, number the events according to the order in which they occur. What do you notice?

Jonah prays to the LORD with thanksgiving.
The fish vomits Jonah out upon dry land.
Jonah prays to the LORD in his distress.
The fish swallows Jonah.
Jonah begins to drown.

What does Jonah declare in verse 9? How does the LORD respond to Jonah's declaration?

APPLICATION

"To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." (Jude 25)

Salvation belongs to the LORD! Though it may be hard to understand the relationship between God's mercy and God's judgment, remember that we can see both gloriously displayed in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ—the One who "delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10). In the Gospel, we see God's character on display, and we can trust that His ways are perfect. He uses both mercy and judgment for His glory and our good. May we declare, as Anne Cousin wrote:

*With mercy and with judgment
My web of time He wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow
Were lusted by His love;
I'll bless the hand that guided,
I'll bless the heart that planned,
When throned where glory dwelleth
In Immanuel's land.*

Write a poem or prayer of thanksgiving to the Sovereign LORD. If you have repented of your sin and submitted your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ, describe where you were when His great mercy swallowed you—delivering you from death and destruction. (If you have not submitted your life to Christ, or you are unsure what that means, please reach out to your Discussion Group Leader, Life Group Leader, or one of our pastors. They would love to discuss this with you.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Jonah's isn't the only three-day journey recorded in the Old Testament. Read Genesis 22:1-15 and Exodus 15:22-27. What do these accounts have in common with Jonah? What does the three-day journey signify (Hint: Read Hosea 6:1-2)?

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Who is your “go to” person—the one you know will respond to your call if you ever need help?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. Jonah proclaimed, “Salvation belongs to the Lord!” How do you think that truth affected the original audience and their view of God? On this side of the Cross, what does that truth mean to you? How does it affect your view of God?
2. Do you see yourself in Jonah? What part of his prayer, or his circumstances, do you identify with most in this season of your life? Why?
3. Jonah was utterly helpless and completely at the mercy of the Sovereign LORD—who would have been justified in allowing Jonah to suffer judgment for his disobedience. Yet, Jonah’s story shows us that no one is beyond the reach of God’s mercy. How should this truth impact the way in which you pray for yourself and for others?
4. It wasn’t until Jonah sank down into the depths of the sea that he felt the fullness of his isolation and broken communion with God. Is divine judgment really better than submission to the LORD? Read Genesis 4:1-16. Why should Jonah 2 evoke a response of worship—especially in a backsliding believer? How is this passage a word of warning for an unbeliever?
5. The world values self-sufficiency in every way. The world’s message is, “I don’t need saving, but if I did, I could save myself!” Many view our trust in the LORD as weakness. What does God’s Word say?
6. We cannot move in two directions at once. When Jonah remembered the LORD and turned his gaze from himself to God, it quite literally changed the direction of his life. Have you become so inwardly focused, or so entangled in sin, that you have forgotten the LORD? Read Lamentations 3:17-24. What specific action can you take to remember the LORD and change direction, today?
7. Though it may be hard to understand the relationship between God’s mercy and God’s judgment, remember that we can see both gloriously displayed in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ—the One who “delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10). If you wrote a poem or prayer of thanksgiving to the Sovereign LORD, will you honor Him by sharing it with your discussion group?
8. You may never be in as deep as Jonah, but have you experienced great distress—perhaps even as a result of your own disobedience? Where did you turn for comfort, or whom did you call for help? Be honest. What can you learn from Jonah?

9. The LORD could have left Jonah alone in his rebellion. Instead, He pursued him. The LORD could have let Jonah drown. Instead, He saved him. How can you draw encouragement from this in your present circumstances?

10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christ-likeness?

LESSON FIVE

Prayer Week

Do you struggle with prayer? Next to evangelism, prayer may be the spiritual discipline with which followers of Christ struggle most—not because it is difficult, but because we do not devote ourselves to communicating with God as we should. Donald S. Whitney writes,

“[S]tatistical surveys and experience seem to agree that a large percentage of professing Christians spend little time in sustained prayer. While they may offer a sentence of prayer here and there throughout their day, they rarely spend more than a very few minutes—if that—alone in conversation with God ... we must come to grips with the fact that, to be like Jesus, we must pray ... In every season God expects every Christian to be devoted to prayer.”

Prayer is talking to God, remembering He is God. We must remember He is God when we approach Him because prayer is our response to who God is. Prayer and Bible study are partners—intricately woven together. We study the Bible to know God, and we call to mind what we learn about Him as we pray in accordance. Ladies, Bible study can help us develop a flourishing prayer life! Last week, we saw how prayer impacted Jonah. This week, we will pause our study of the Book of Jonah to grow in the discipline of prayer—individually and corporately. You will read through one passage of Scripture each day and apply what you learn in prayer. We encourage you to, as Tim Keller wrote, “consider what the biblical truth you are pondering should actually do to you and in you—how it should lead you to praise God, repent, and change your heart and what it should lead you to do in this world.”

Day One

READ PSALM 19 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. THEN, PRAY THROUGH YOUR RESPONSES.

What does this passage reveal about God's character, conduct, or concerns? Does the passage reveal anything about Jesus Christ—either who He is or what He has done to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)? What truths about God ignite adoration and praise within you?

What conviction or lament does this passage prompt within you? Does it expose any of your sinful thoughts, deeds, patterns of behavior, desires, or an attitude you should confess?

Where do you see God's mercy and grace toward you? How does this passage prompt thanksgiving within you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). What petition(s), for yourself and/or others, does this passage bring to mind?

Day Two

READ PSALM 51 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. THEN, PRAY THROUGH YOUR RESPONSES.

What does this passage reveal about God's character, conduct, or concerns? Does the passage reveal anything about Jesus Christ—either who He is or what He has done to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)? What truths about God ignite adoration and praise within you?

What conviction or lament does this passage prompt within you? Does it expose any of your sinful thoughts, deeds, patterns of behavior, desires, or an attitude you should confess?

Where do you see God's mercy and grace toward you? How does this passage prompt thanksgiving within you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). What petition(s), for yourself and/or others, does this passage bring to mind?

Day Three

READ PSALM 9 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. THEN, PRAY THROUGH YOUR RESPONSES.

What does this passage reveal about God's character, conduct, or concerns? Does the passage reveal anything about Jesus Christ—either who He is or what He has done to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)? What truths about God ignite adoration and praise within you?

What conviction or lament does this passage prompt within you? Does it expose any of your sinful thoughts, deeds, patterns of behavior, desires, or an attitude you should confess?

Where do you see God's mercy and grace toward you? How does this passage prompt thanksgiving within you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). What petition(s), for yourself and/or others, does this passage bring to mind?

Day Four

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. THEN, PRAY THROUGH YOUR RESPONSES.

What does this passage reveal about God's character, conduct, or concerns? Does the passage reveal anything about Jesus Christ—either who He is or what He has done to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)? What truths about God ignite adoration and praise within you?

What conviction or lament does this passage prompt within you? Does it expose any of your sinful thoughts, deeds, patterns of behavior, desires, or an attitude you should confess?

Where do you see God's mercy and grace toward you? How does this passage prompt thanksgiving within you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). What petition(s), for yourself and/or others, does this passage bring to mind?

Day Five

READ JOHN 17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. THEN, PRAY THROUGH YOUR RESPONSES.

What does this passage reveal about God's character, conduct, or concerns? Does the passage reveal anything about Jesus Christ—either who He is or what He has done to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)? What truths about God ignite adoration and praise within you?

What conviction or lament does this passage prompt within you? Does it expose any of your sinful thoughts, deeds, patterns of behavior, desires, or an attitude you should confess?

Where do you see God's mercy and grace toward you? How does this passage prompt thanksgiving within you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). What petition(s), for yourself and/or others, does this passage bring to mind?

For Personal Reflection

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Would you describe yourself as a woman of prayer? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. How often do you allow your cares, circumstances, and concerns to rule you? What impact has it had on your life? Read Philippians 4:6-7. What should you do instead? Why?
2. Prayer is honest and transparent communication with God. How often do you talk to Him about the motivation behind what you think, feel, and pray? Read Psalm 139:23-24. How can you remember to spend time before God examining the motivations of your heart?
3. Even the most difficult trials serve a purpose. Read Romans 8: 28-29. What is God's ultimate goal? In what way should this eternal perspective impact your prayer life?
4. Read Luke 5:16, 9:18, and Mark 1:35. Jesus prayed frequently and alone. What one change can you make this week to increase your time in prayer?
5. Have you ever had trouble finding the words to pray? Read Romans 8:26-27. Did you know this? What encouragement can you draw from this truth?
6. What are some hindrances to prayer—both practically and spiritually? Read Psalm 66:18, Ezekiel 14:3, and James 4:3. Can you think of others?
7. In Jonah 2, we learned that God hears and responds to our prayers. Let that sink in. The One True Living God hears and responds to our prayers. Read James 5:13-16. If you took this truth to heart, how would it impact your prayer life?
8. How did this week's lesson impact your prayers? Did you find it helpful? Did you learn anything new?
9. If you have a strong prayer life, what encouragement or practical advice can you share with your discussion group?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christlikeness?

LESSON SIX

Jonah 3

At the Lord's command, the great fish vomited Jonah out upon dry land. What follows are two great acts of mercy. The LORD granted both Jonah and the people of Nineveh a second chance.

"Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh ...'"

In obedience, Jonah arose and went to Nineveh to proclaim the message God gave him. Upon hearing the LORD's word of warning, the people of Nineveh—from the least to the greatest—fasted in sackcloth and ashes. They chose to turn from their evil ways, hoping that God would show them mercy. When the LORD saw that they repented and believed, He relented.

Day One

FOR REVIEW (JONAH 1:17-2:10)

How did the LORD respond when Jonah called out to Him? What did the LORD want Jonah to understand?

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Jonah 1-4, drawing a box around every occurrence of the word "Nineveh" on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ JONAH 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What evidence do you see of the depths of God's mercy in verse 1?

Compare "the word of the LORD" in Jonah 1:2 and 3:2. Has the LORD's calling and message changed? What does this say about God?

Did Jonah's response change? What does this say about Jonah?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What specific words did Jonah deliver to the Ninevites (verse 4)?

Was the LORD's message to Nineveh easy to deliver? Was the LORD's message easy for them to accept? Why or why not?

Why could Jonah be considered brave in obeying the LORD's word to call out against Nineveh?

APPLICATION

God's message for Nineveh and Jonah's calling did not change from chapter 1 to chapter 3. For the entirety of a Christian's life, God's call to joyfully share the Gospel never changes. Are you joyful in evangelism? If not, what is stealing your joy?

Do you know how to share the Gospel? Visit richlandcreek.com/everyone-a-witness/ for instruction and further understanding.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

The time period of “40 days” is not unique to the book of Jonah. Read at least three of the following passages. Record who was involved and what took place during the 40 days.

Who

What

Genesis 7:1-5

Exodus 24:12-18

1 Samuel 17:1-16

Matthew 4:1-11

Acts 1:1-5

Day Three

READ JONAH 3, FOCUSING ON VERSE 5 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

According to verse 5, whom did the people of Nineveh believe?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Who called for the fast? Why is that important? Read verse 5 carefully.

Look up the word “sackcloth” in a dictionary. Write the definition below.

Using the above definition and verses 4-5, what did “putting on” sackcloth represent?

Who participated in the fast? What does this say about God and His work?

APPLICATION

The people of Nineveh wasted no time responding to God’s message, delivered by Jonah. Have you ever wasted time responding to God in obedience? How can you prepare to obey quickly?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Sackcloth was part of a mourning ritual. This mourning could be over the physical loss of someone/something. This mourning could also be over one's spiritual condition, as an "outward symbol of sorrow over sin" (ESV Archaeology Study Bible). Read the follow passages and determine why sackcloth was worn — physical loss or spiritual condition.

Daniel 9:1-5

Genesis 37:34

Day Four

READ JONAH 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 6-9 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Verse 5 says, "the least to the greatest" fasted and mourned because of the LORD's message delivered by Jonah. Who is the "greatest" found in verse 6?

Whom did this "king-proclaimed" fast directly affect, according to this passage?

_____ Crops

_____ nobles

_____ the people of Nineveh

_____ animals

_____ the king

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Look up “repent” in the dictionary. Write the definition below.

What word, in verses 8-9, closely matches the idea/ definition of repentance?

In verse 9, what attribute of the LORD did the king recognize?

APPLICATION

Do you take your own personal sin seriously, recognizing it as rebellion against God? Do you grieve, confess, and repent over your sin? Write a prayer of confession and repentance below.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

In verse 8, the king of Nineveh commanded his entire kingdom (animals included) to verbally “call out” to God for deliverance. “Calling” or “crying out” is not limited to pagan kings, but is seen throughout Scripture. Read these passages from Psalm 107, record who was “crying out,” why they were “crying out,” and God’s response to their “crying out.”

	Who	Why	God’s Response
Psalm 107:4-7			
Psalm 107:10-14			
Psalm 107:17-20			
Psalm 107:23-29			

Day Five

READ JONAH 3:10 AND JEREMIAH 18:7-10 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
Fill in the blanks.

“When _____ what they did, _____ from their evil way,
_____ of the disaster that He had said He would do...”

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Day 4, we noticed the word “turned” can be interchangeable with the word “repentance.” What was the result of Nineveh’s repentance?

Re-read Jeremiah 18:7-10. List similar words/ideas from Jeremiah 18 and Jonah 3.

Look up “relented” in the dictionary. Record the definition below.

How do we see the depths of God’s mercy in Jonah 3 and Jeremiah 18?

APPLICATION

As Christians, we will become religious snobs if we forget salvation was given to us and not something we earned. The repentance of Nineveh and God’s gracious salvation extended to them is a small example of the repentance and grace necessary for our eternal salvation from the “disaster” that comes to those who reject God. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Rewrite these verses in your own words.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

In Bible study, we remember the Gospel. In evangelism, we share the Gospel. These keep our eyes on God's work, not our own. In his book, *What Is The Gospel*, Greg Gilbert explains the Gospel in four words: God, humanity, Christ, response. Read at least two passages under each heading. Record your observations. Then, put your observations together and write a brief Gospel presentation.

God – Genesis 1:26-27, 3:15; Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 11:7, 33:5, 89:14, 97:2

Humanity – Genesis 3:1-7; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:10, 3:23; Ephesians 2:1, 5

Christ – Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1, 14; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; Luke 24:5-6

Response – Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21, 26:20; 1 John 2:1-3

Gospel Presentation

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

SPRING 2022

Lecture Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Have you ever received a second chance at something—on a small or large scale?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. There are many characteristics of God on display in this chapter. Choose one or two of the following and discuss what we learn about that attribute from Jonah 3: omnipresent (in all places), omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), immutable (unchanging), loving, just, merciful, patient, good, personal.
2. Jonah gets a second chance and shares God's message with Nineveh. Have you ever shared (or not shared) the Gospel and desired a second chance? How do you need to prepare to share God's message of salvation when He gives you another opportunity?
3. Why did the king of Nineveh issue a proclamation of fasting and being clothed in sackcloth and ashes—for people as well as animals? What does this say about the depths of our sin and the depths of God's mercy?
4. In verse 9, the king of Nineveh confesses his hope that the actions of his city will cause God's anger to be turned from them, "so they would not perish." Why are a person's actions not enough to keep them from eternal "perishing"?
5. In John 3:16, Jesus uses the word "perish." What does He say about eternal or everlasting "perishing"?
6. "Based on Jonah 1-3, what sort of attitude do you think Jonah should have had toward God? What attitude should he have had toward the Ninevites? Why do you feel he should have had those attitudes? What emotions do you think he should be feeling and why?" (Christ-Centered Exposition, 48.)
7. The people of Nineveh waste no time responding to God's message. How do Christians waste time responding to God in obedience? What does swift obedience reveal about our thoughts toward God?
8. God's message for Nineveh and call to Jonah did not change between chapter 1 and chapter 3. Likewise, for the entirety of a Christian's life, God's call to joyfully share the Gospel never changes. Why should a Christian (unlike Jonah) find joy in evangelism?
9. In light of Jonah 3, how does the knowledge that God is unchanging (immutable) give you hope for lost friends and family? How does it give you the confidence to share the Gospel?

10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christ-likeness?

LESSON SEVEN

Jonah 4

The LORD relented when the people of Nineveh repented. Yet, Jonah was angry—angry enough to die. He disapproved of what God had done and felt justified in his initial disobedient response. How could the LORD show such mercy toward Israel’s enemies? The LORD is a “gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” In the end, Jonah’s misplaced “pity” for a plant stands in stark contrast to the LORD’s compassion for the precious souls of people made in the image of God. Oh, the depths of God’s mercy!

Day One

FOR REVIEW (JONAH 3)

How did the people of Nineveh demonstrate genuine repentance? How did God respond?

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Jonah 1-4, drawing a parenthesis around every occurrence of the word(s) "great" or "exceedingly great" on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ JONAH 4, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What had happened that displeased Jonah? Look back at Jonah 3:10.

Why had Jonah fled to Tarshish?

What characteristics of God does Jonah list? What about these traits of God would make Jonah angry enough to rebel?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Read Exodus 34:1-9. Who first proclaimed these attributes of God? When and to whom were they proclaimed?

Who:

When:

To Whom:

Scan through Exodus 32-33 and note below the events that preceded this proclamation of the LORD's attributes.

What repeated words or ideas do you see in Jonah 4:2, Joel 2:13, and Jonah 3:8-9?

APPLICATION

God showed His mercy, grace, and steadfast love to the Israelites, time and again, throughout their history. No doubt, these were attributes for which the Israelites were thankful. But Jonah suspected that God's character was not bound to only one people group. When God had the audacity to show His mercy to Jonah's enemies, in response to their repentance, Jonah snapped. Is there anyone in your life that you struggle to show mercy toward? Read and meditate on Micah 6:8 and Luke 6:35-36.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Isaiah 55:5-9. What type of people do you see running to the LORD in repentance in these verses? How does God respond to them? How does God defend His actions to those who (like Jonah) might not understand His mercy (verses 8-9)?

Type of People:

God's Response:

God's Defense:

Day Three

READ JONAH 4, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

In his prayer of anger, what surprising request does Jonah make of the LORD in verse 3?

What other prophets made a similar request (see Numbers 11:11-15 and 1 Kings 19:1-5)?

_____ and _____

Compare and contrast these three prophets' situations and motives behind their desperation below.

Jonah

M_____

E_____

How does the LORD respond to Jonah? Write His probing question below.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

A few weeks back, we looked at Genesis 4. Go back and read verses 1-6 of that passage. Note below the man to whom God asked a very similar question.

In what ways does Jonah's character contrast with God's? Look for specific examples from today's passage.

APPLICATION

What makes you angry? What tempts you to be angry at God? What should we replace this anger with (read James 1:19-21)?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Luke 20:9-18, Acts 22:21-24, and 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16. Notice how this angry attitude at God's mercy toward the Gentiles continues in the New Testament. Who expressed this attitude and how was it expressed? Note what you learn below.

Day Four

READ JONAH 4, FOCUSING ON VERSES 5-11 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What actions does Jonah take in verse 5? What do you think he is hoping will happen?

In verses 6-8, what three things did the LORD appoint? What was the physical effect of each on Jonah?

Thing #1: Effect

Thing #2: Effect

Thing #3: Effect

Jonah 4:1-4 and 8-9 were written to parallel one another. Fill in the chart below and observe the parallels.

How Jonah Felt	How Jonah Prayed	How God Responded
(4:1)	(4:3)	(4:4)
(4:8-9)	(4:8)	(4:9)

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What in this passage makes Jonah most glad? What makes Jonah most angry?

Where in this passage do you see God's grace toward Jonah?

APPLICATION

God brought relief as well as discomfort into Jonah's life. Each served a purpose. Do you tend to think of God as being gracious when life is easy, or do you see His work of grace during the hard days too? Note below things that God has taught you during times of difficulty that you likely would not have learned any other way.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Let's contrast Jonah and Nineveh with Jesus and Jerusalem. What was Nineveh's response to Jonah's message? What was on Jonah's mind as he looked at the city of Nineveh?

Read Luke 13:33-35 and 19:41-44. What was Jerusalem's response to Jesus? What did Jesus feel and think as He looked over the city of Jerusalem?

Day Five

READ JONAH 4, FOCUSING ON VERSES 5-11 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What do you think Jonah pitied in this story? Choose the best option.

- A. Himself
- B. The people of Nineveh
- C. The plant
- D. All of the above
- E. Both A and C

Think back through the entire book of Jonah. Who has God shown pity or mercy toward?

How does God describe the Ninevites' condition in verse 11?

Look back through chapter 4 at both the actions that God takes and His words. In your own words, write what you think God is trying to teach Jonah.

Read Matthew 5:43-48. What are some ways that Jonah failed to reflect God's character as seen in these verses? What are some ways that Jesus fulfilled these truths?

Jonah

Jesus

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

God is at work throughout the book of Jonah, as evidenced by many supernatural events. List as many supernatural acts as you can remember below. Then note beside each event what you think God's purpose was for that event. Why did He do it?

APPLICATION

The supernatural power and mercy of God come together in surprising ways throughout the book of Jonah. Perhaps the most surprising event of all is the humble repentance of an entire pagan city. Only God can change a heart of stone into a heart of clay—whether it is a pagan king or a merciless prophet. List below people in your life whose hardened hearts need a supernatural act of God for change to occur. Then pray with the faith worthy of your powerful, merciful God.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Ephesians 2. What do you learn about how God treats His enemies?

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

What is your favorite refreshment on a hot day?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. Does Jonah's attitude in chapter 4 surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Read Jonah 4:2-3. Which of these attributes of God brings you comfort? Why would some of these characteristics have angered Jonah? What attribute of God is most difficult for you to accept?
3. Do you find it difficult to show mercy to some people? Read and discuss the implications of living out Micah 6:8 and Luke 6:35-36. How is this lifestyle possible?
4. Read Isaiah 55:5-9 together. How does God defend His forgiveness of the wicked to those who (like Jonah) might not understand His mercy?
5. In what ways does Jonah's character contrast with God's? Give specific examples from this week's passage.
6. What makes you angry or tempts you to be angry at God? What should we replace this anger with? Read James 1:19-21.
7. Where in this passage do you see God's grace toward Jonah?
8. God brought relief as well as discomfort into Jonah's life. Each served a purpose. What things has God taught you during times of difficulty that you likely would not have learned any other way?
9. Jonah's anger and happiness were for all the wrong things. What do we do if our emotions reveal to us that our hearts are in the wrong place?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christ-likeness?

LESSON EIGHT

Luke 15:11-32

Before we move to the Book of Nahum, we will spend one week in Luke 15 studying the parable of The Prodigal Son. The title of this passage is deceiving. Though it describes only one, there are two “lost” sons in this parable. Our goal is to magnify the depths of God’s mercy. Few passages in Scripture rival this vivid depiction of the Father’s profound love and the Lord Jesus’ compassion for the lost. Oh, how God rejoices in our salvation!

Day One

FOR REVIEW (JONAH 4)

What lesson was God trying to teach Jonah in chapter 4? What actions and words did He use to teach this lesson?

Read (or listen to) the whole Book of Nahum in one sitting. Note below the major events in each chapter. (Hint: The bold headings in your Bible will help with this.)

Day Two

READ LUKE 15 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Young's Literal Translation of the Bible uses "simile" instead of "parable" in verse 3. Using a dictionary, define "simile" and "parable." Why do you think Jesus uses them?

To whom is Jesus speaking in Luke 15? List the two distinct groups listening to Jesus as He tells these three parables. How does each group respond—before He even speaks?

	Group	Response
Verse 1		
Verse 2		

What does the second group say about Jesus in verse 2?

What do the lost sheep and the lost coin represent, according to verses 7 and 10?

What words, phrases, and / or themes does Jesus repeat in all three parables?

Look again at verse 2. Luke uses the same Greek word for “receive” several times in his writings (including Luke 2:25, Luke 2:38, Luke 12:36, and Acts 23:21). This word means to “eagerly await or expect and look for.” Does this change your understanding of the word “receives”? Is Jesus passive or active when it comes to sinners?

Were the scribes and Pharisees right about Jesus? Was their accusation in verse 2 true?

APPLICATION

Do you remember Jonah’s attitude toward the LORD? How does it compare with the scribes’ and Pharisees’ attitudes toward Jesus in this passage? What is your attitude toward God? Do you identify more with the group of sinners who “[drew] near to hear him” or the group who “grumbled” about the heart of the Savior?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Dane Ortlund writes, “We naturally think of Jesus touching us the way a little boy reaches out to touch a slug for the first time—face screwed up, cautiously extending his arm, giving a yelp of disgust upon contact, and instantly withdrawing... This is why we need a Bible. Our natural intuition can only give us a God like us. The God revealed in the Scripture deconstructs our intuitive predilections and startles us with one whose infinitude of perfections is matched by his infinitude of gentleness. Indeed, his perfections include his perfect gentleness. It is who he is. It is his very heart. Jesus himself said so” (Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sufferers and Sinners*)

Let’s spend this week in our Further Study sections looking at Scripture passages that help us better understand the heart of our Savior.

Day 1 of 4: Read Matthew 8:1-17. What did you learn about the heart of our Savior?

Day Three

READ LUKE 15:11-32, FOCUSING ON VERSES 11-16 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What does the younger son ask his father to give him?

When is an inheritance usually given? Does that condition apply in this case? Even so, how does the father respond?

Jesus focuses on the “lostness” of the younger son. What character traits does this son exhibit through his words and deeds in verses 11-16?

Was the younger son’s self-serving, sinful life fulfilling? What words from the text support your answer?

What additional detail does verse 16 reveal? What happened to the younger son? Read Proverbs 19:4 for more insight.

What event magnifies the severity of the situation? Read 1 Kings 8:35-36 and Amos 4:6-8. The scribes and Pharisees would have recognized the purpose of this event. What is that purpose?

APPLICATION

This passage describes the misery of the “lost” younger son. He desired his father’s good gifts but not a relationship with the father. It does not make any sense, yet this is what we do. What “swine food” do we seek or accept instead of seeking God? What echoes of Jonah’s story do you see in the younger son’s experience?

Those who are not in Christ are spiritually dead. Whether we realize it or not, separation from God is the most miserable state in which anyone can be. Yet, in His mercy, He pursues us—no matter how low (or deep, in Jonah’s case) we sink. We must continually remind ourselves of the truth in Romans 5:8 and praise Him!

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Day 2 of 4: Read Matthew 9:1-13. What do you learn about the heart of our Savior?

Day Four

READ LUKE 15:11-32, FOCUSING ON VERSES 17-24 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

According to the text, why did the younger son return to his father?

What elements of repentance do you see in the younger son’s words and deeds? Check all that apply.

- ☐ broken and contrite heart
- ☐ deep sense of unworthiness
- ☐ acknowledgment of sin before God
- ☐ acknowledgment of sin before his father
- ☐ accepts that he has no rights at all
- ☐ casts himself upon the mercy of his father
- ☐ arose and returned home

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

List everything the father does in verse 20. Why does Jesus include these vivid details? What is He saying about Himself?

The younger son begins to speak, but his father interrupts him. What part of the son's confession is left unsaid? Why is this significant? What is his father eager to do?

What does the father not do? How does this magnify the depths of God's mercy?

Describe the lavish welcome and celebration the younger son receives.

How is verse 24 relevant for us today? Read Ephesians 2:1-7. Why does every believer have a reason to celebrate?

APPLICATION

Unlike what we saw in Jonah 2, the younger son's repentance is unmistakable. Did the father respond as you expected? Even if you were already familiar with this story, what is the most shocking aspect of his response? How does this compare with your own experience? If you are in Christ, did God respond to your repentance and faith in the same way?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Day 3 of 4: Read John 11:1-44. What did you learn about the heart of our Savior?

Day Five

READ LUKE 15:11-32, FOCUSING ON VERSES 25-32 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What does the older brother hear as he draws near to the house?

How does he respond when the servant updates him? How is the older brother's response to his father similar to Jonah's response to God in Jonah 4?

What does the father do in response (verse 28)? How does his response to the older son display the depths of God's mercy?

How does the older son describe himself in verse 29? What is he trusting in to justify himself and to condemn his brother?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What one word would you use to describe the older son's attitude toward his brother in verse 30?

There is at least one glaring area of hypocrisy in the older son's thinking. Both the older son and the younger son had something in common. Initially, they both cared about one thing above all. Which statement is true? Circle one.

The sons cared about the relationship with their father.

The sons cared about what they could get from their father.

Consider the older son's attitude. Now, he is choosing to alienate himself from his father. This situation calls for the same response we saw in the younger son because the older son, too, is lost! Why did he refuse to go in and join the celebration? What did he not recognize, according to the father's words in verse 31? Look back at verse 12.

Read the parable of The Wedding Feast in Matthew 22:1-13. What will happen to those who are cut off from God?

How does the parable of the Prodigal Son end? What does the father repeat in verse 32?

Look back at Luke 15:2. The scribes and Pharisees say that Jesus “eats with [sinners].” What future event does Revelation 19:6-9 describe? Should we, too, not celebrate?

APPLICATION

The older son symbolizes the mindset of the scribes and Pharisees (for more insight, read Romans 9:1-18). He did not think of himself as a sinner, and neither did they. For Jesus to “find” us, we must first recognize that we are “lost.” Through these parables, Jesus is appealing to all who will see themselves as lost. When did you first realize that you were a lost sinner in need of a Savior? Where were you when the depths of God’s mercy reached you? Write a brief testimony to share with your group or a cherished memory from your early days as a Christian.

If you cannot recall a time in your life when you repented of sin and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, please speak to your Discussion Group Leader. Today can be that day if you humble yourself and seek God’s mercy!

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Day 4 of 4: Read Luke 7:36-50. What did you learn about the heart of our Savior?

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

S P R I N G 2022

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Do you have your own “lost and found” story—a story about something you (or someone you love) lost but later found that led to great rejoicing?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. What aspect of God’s character stood out above the rest this week? Why?
2. Do you remember Jonah’s attitude toward the LORD? How does it compare with the scribes’ and Pharisees’ attitudes toward Jesus in this passage? What is your attitude toward God? Do you identify more with the group of sinners who “[drew] near to hear him” or the group who “grumbled” about the heart of the Savior? Why?
3. With whom do you identify most in the parable of The Prodigal Son? Why? What does this reveal to you about yourself?
4. Jesus is appealing to all who will see themselves as lost. When did you first recognize that you were a lost sinner in need of a Savior? Where were you when the depths of God’s mercy reached you? Would you share with your group a brief testimony or a cherished memory from your early days as a Christian?
5. This week’s passage describes the misery of the “lost” younger son. He desired his father’s good gifts but not a relationship with the father. It does not make any sense, yet this is what we do. What “swine food” do we seek or accept instead of seeking God? What echoes of Jonah’s story do you see in the younger son’s experience?
6. Unlike what we saw in Jonah 2, the younger son’s repentance is unmistakable. Did the father respond as you expected? Even if you were already familiar with this story, what is the most shocking aspect of his response? How does this compare with your own experience? If you are in Christ, did God respond to your repentance and faith in the same way?
7. Dane Ortlund writes, “We naturally think of Jesus touching us the way a little boy reaches out to touch a slug for the first time—face screwed up, cautiously extending his arm, giving a yelp of disgust upon contact, and instantly withdrawing... This is why we need a Bible. Our natural intuition can only give us a God like us. The God revealed in the Scripture deconstructs our intuitive predilections....” Did you (or do you still) have the wrong idea about who God is or what He is like before you began studying the Bible? What difference has this week’s study made, as far as your understanding of the heart of God?
8. How is verse 24 relevant for us today? Read Ephesians 2:1-7. Why does every believer have a reason to celebrate?

9. Those who are not in Christ are dead in their trespasses. Separation from God is the most miserable state in which anyone can be. Yet, is this the actual experience of the “lost” in our world today? How does what you see around you compare with the truth of God’s Word?

10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you’ve learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christ-likeness?

LESSON NINE

Nahum 1

From our study of the Book of Jonah, we know that the prophet Jonah proclaimed God's word of warning to the evil city of Nineveh, capital of the Assyrian Empire. Though that generation did repent (and God relented from destroying them), a century later, the people of Nineveh had returned to their evil ways. Using poetic language and vivid imagery, the prophet Nahum paints a sobering picture of divine wrath through an oracle concerning the destruction of this "great" city. These weighty passages in the Book of Nahum will help us reconcile the tension between justice and mercy, vengeance and compassion. The LORD of hosts is both merciful and just. He is slow to anger but not indifferent to sin. He will make all things right.

Day One

FOR REVIEW (LUKE 15:11-32)

Compare and contrast the sons with the prophet Jonah. How is Jesus Christ greater than each?

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Nahum 1-3, drawing parentheses around every occurrence of the words “enemy” or “enemies” on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

HISTORICAL CONTEXT (THE WORLD AROUND THE TEXT)

Read the introduction and background information for the Book of Nahum in a Study Bible or Bible Dictionary to answer the following questions. (If you do not have these tools, access them online. See Appendix 5 for resource links.)

Who is the author?

Who is the original audience?

When was this book written?

What are the major issues of the day (i.e., the cultural, political, and/or spiritual climate of the original audience)? What prompted the writing of this text?

What additional details might be important to remember as you study in the weeks ahead?

Day Three

LITERARY CONTEXT (THE WORDS AROUND THE TEXT)

What literary genre best describes the Book of Nahum?

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Narrative
- ☐ Prophecy
- ☐ Wisdom

What book of the Bible comes before the Book of Nahum?

What book of the Bible comes after the Book of Nahum?

BIBLICAL CONTEXT (HOW THE REST OF GOD'S WORD CONNECTS TO THE TEXT)

How does the Book of Nahum connect with the rest of Scripture? Where does the Book of Nahum fit within the "big story" of the Bible? (Hint: Flip back to the Grand Narrative Timeline in Lesson One.)

As you read through the Book of Nahum this week, did you notice any citations or allusions to other passages of Scripture?

Look back over your notes from the Grand Narrative the first week and review the context information you gathered. Why is the Book of Nahum at this specific spot in the Bible? How does the Book of Nahum contribute to the overall message of the Scriptures? [Note: If you are not ready to answer this question yet, don't worry. Just be sure to keep it in mind as you work your way through the Book of Nahum. When we reach the end, you will be able to answer this fundamental question.]

Day Four

READ NAHUM 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-8 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. Using a dictionary, look up the word "oracle." Write the definition below.

How did Nahum receive this oracle from the LORD?

List all the attributes of God that you see in this passage. Circle those you see repeated in the text.

Who are the recipients of the LORD's vengeance and wrath—in this specific oracle (verse 1) and in general (verses 2 and 8)? How do verses 3a and 7 help us to rightly understand who God is? See also Exodus 34:6-7.

How does the LORD reveal His great power in creation (verses 3-5)? How does creation respond to Him? How does this emphasize the questions posed in verse 6?

What is the answer to the questions posed in verse 6? How should this truth impact our response to Him?

APPLICATION

Some view the “God” of the Old Testament as a mean and nasty character. Horrified by His wrath and the descriptions of violent judgment, they cannot reconcile Him with the loving and compassionate “God” of the New Testament. Others, including the original audience, draw comfort from the fact that “the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.”

Have you ever suffered at the hands of another? Have you ever felt like the ungodly are the very ones who seem to prosper in this world? As we consider the description of the LORD’s character in Nahum 1, we must remember that the God of the Old Testament and the New Testament are the same. Because He is good, great in power, a stronghold, a refuge, and perfectly just, He will not allow ongoing evil and cruelty to go unpunished. Read Psalm 5:4-12. Does this passage clarify your understanding of who the God of the Bible is? What comfort can you draw from this psalm? How might this knowledge increase your faith? Write your thoughts below.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Habakkuk had trouble reconciling “God’s character and His sovereign ways in history,” according to John MacArthur. Read Habakkuk 1-3. Compare and contrast Habakkuk’s human perspective with the LORD’s. What can you learn from Habakkuk? What enables him to endure?

Day Five

READ NAHUM 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 9-15 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Look at verses 8 and 9. What repeated phrase describes what will become of God's adversaries? What other words and phrases from this passage (verses 9-15) indicate their fate?

Who "plotted evil against the LORD"? See Nahum 3:18 and read Isaiah 10:5-19.

What does the LORD say about Judah's affliction? What is the LORD saying about Himself in verses 12 and 13? Refer back to the passage you just read (Isaiah 10:5-19).

What three judgments does the LORD pronounce against Nineveh?

What "good news" does Judah receive (verse 15)?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Who is ultimately in charge, according to Nahum 1? Circle one and support your answer from the text.

God's People

God

God's Enemies

APPLICATION

Romans 8:31-32 says, "...If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all..." This is "good news" for us today. God is for us in Christ! God the Son is the "bond breaker" who purchased peace for us on the Cross. Though sinless, He chose to drink the cup of God's wrath for our sin, in our place, so that we would not be "utterly cut off." Read Colossians 1:19-22 and Romans 5:8-11. Are you reconciled to God by faith in Jesus Christ, or are you still an enemy alienated from Him? If your answer is the latter, why have you not repented and placed your trust in Jesus? If your answer is the former, what difference has freedom in Christ made in your life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read the following passages and note what each says about peace with God.

Acts 10:34-35

Ephesians 6:14-15

Romans 15:13

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

What sparks anger within you? What is the quickest way to make you angry?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. As you read and gathered information this week, what aspect of God's character stood out above all? Why?
2. Have you ever suffered at the hands of another? Have you ever felt like the ungodly are the very ones who seem to prosper in this world? Read Psalm 5:4-12. Does this passage clarify your understanding of who God is? How might this knowledge increase your faith?
3. Nahum's name comes from the Hebrew word for "comfort." How might you draw comfort from Nahum 1? How does this passage reveal the depths of God's mercy?
4. The LORD is a jealous God—zealous for, not jealous of, His people. Why is that distinction important? How does Jeremiah 3:6-10 help us understand what provokes this jealousy?
5. What did you learn about the time in which Nahum lived and prophesied? How is the world in which we live similar / different?
6. Even when we do not see it, we can be sure that God is at work for our good. Nahum 1 reveals that the LORD is both "good" and "great in power." What would be the implications if He were only great in power? Why does the fact that He is "good" matter?
7. Have you studied Nahum before? What was your initial reaction to this oracle? How has studying Nahum 1 impacted your view of God?
8. How does what you gleaned this week compare/contrast with "worldly wisdom" today? How are God's ways different from the world?
9. Read Colossians 1:19-22 and Romans 5:8-11. Are you reconciled to God by faith in Jesus Christ, or are you still an enemy alienated from Him? If your answer is the latter, why have you not repented and placed your trust in Jesus? If your answer is the former, what difference has freedom in Christ made in your life?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christlikeness? Ezra was a scribe who knew, did his best to obey, and teach the Law of the Lord, yet still appreciated the grace that he received from the hand of the Lord. Does knowing more of God's Word tempt you to be complacent in your faith? How can you guard yourself from this complacency? How did Ezra?

LESSON TEN

Nahum 2

Nahum 1 ends with good news for Judah—peace is coming! “[T]he LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel.” When the “scatterer” comes to plunder the plunderers, the predator will become prey. Though Nineveh prepares for battle, their efforts will prove futile against the conquering army—for the Lord of hosts is against them. He will fight for His people. As that terrifying reality sets in, hearts melt, knees tremble, and faces grow pale. The lions will be no more.

Day One

FOR REVIEW (NAHUM 1)

From whose perspective is Nahum written? Why is this a crucial detail to remember? What other details will be helpful to recall every time you open your Bible to study the Book of Nahum? (Hint: Your goal is to view the text through the eyes of the original audience.)

Flip to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Nahum 1-3, drawing a circle around every occurrence of the word “against” on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ NAHUM 2, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-2 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

In Nahum 1:15, a message is sent to Judah. In Nahum 2:1, a message comes to Nineveh. Compare the two messages. Who delivers the messages? How are the recipients to respond to the message they received?

Deliverer

Recipient's Response

What is Nineveh instructed to prepare for? Record the words and phrases that led you to that conclusion.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Using a dictionary, look up the word “majesty.” Consider the context and write the appropriate definition below.

Why were the people unable to restore the majesty of Jacob themselves? See verse 2.

Why would the restoration of Judah be important? (Hint: Who would eventually come from Judah?)

APPLICATION

We see God in action in this chapter, the “scatterer” who has come to punish Nineveh for plundering His people. We see this justice of God in the New Testament as well. Read Galatians 6:7-8 and write what you learn.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

The idea of being “scattered” is woven throughout Scripture. Read at least one Old Testament passage and one New Testament passage, and determine how God “scattering” people (or things) displayed His holiness in that situation.

Scattering:

Holiness:

Exodus 32:15-20

Ezekiel 11:14-21

John 16:25-33

Acts 7:54-8:4

Day Three

READ NAHUM 2, FOCUSING ON VERSES 3-10 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

The “scatterer” will come with an army. Record the words from verses 3-4 that describe both his army and plan of attack.

What words in verses 4-5 describe the attitude and speed of the approaching army?

What are the implications for Nineveh from verse 6? What would it mean for “the palace to melt away”?

Which repeated words in verses 8-9 show a contrast between the Ninevites and the invading army? What do those words reveal about the destruction of Nineveh? Do you see the irony? Compare verse 2 with verse 9.

What words does the author use to describe the downfall of Nineveh? See also Zephaniah 2:13-15.

APPLICATION

Repentance and faith are not biological, or “caught” from one generation to the next. Otherwise Nineveh would have been saved once and for all in their response to Jonah’s message years earlier. This new generation did not know the Lord or walk in His ways. What implications does this truth have for the church today?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

God is just—“righteous and holy, fair and equitable in all things. We can trust Him to always do what is right” (see Appendix 1). When not anchored in the Word, we see as the world sees: God’s decisions are restrictive and unfair, so He cannot be trusted. When anchored in the Word, we see as God sees: God is holy and can be trusted. His decisions are good and righteous—period. Use the columns below to contrast the biblical view and the worldly view of God’s justice. See the example below.

Biblical View	Worldly View
Genesis 2:17	
God is the holy, righteous Creator, and is protecting Adam and Eve.	Adam and Eve did not deserve/need this unfair restriction.
Deuteronomy 27:26	
Romans 6:23	
Acts 5:1-11	

Day Four

READ NAHUM 2, FOCUSING ON VERSES 11-13 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

The Assyrians used the image of proud, fearless lions throughout their empire—even their kings likened themselves to lions. What does the author’s use of the same imagery indicate about Nineveh’s judgment?

What are verses 11-12 saying about Assyria and its king?

Why did this disaster come upon the Assyrians? Why did their empire fall? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> wicked behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> poor city construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> divine justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> it is God’s will | <input type="checkbox"/> seized by Judah |

In verse 13, God mentions four means of oppression. What will He do? What does this tell us about the LORD’s righteous judgment?

How is the silencing of the messengers (verse 13) good news for Judah?

APPLICATION

Have you ever felt, or perhaps feel, as though the LORD is against you? If you are a Christian, how does Nahum 2 give you hope?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

It is crucial to remember that part of the purpose for the punishment of sin is a call to recognize and stand in awe of our sovereign God. Using the verses below, record the circumstance in which “awe” took place. On the last line, chronicle a time when you yourself stood in awe of God.

Isaiah 29:22-24

Hebrews 12:28-29

Your Experience

Day Five

READ NAHUM 2, FOCUSING ON VERSE 13 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
Fill in the blanks.

“Behold, I _____ you, declares the _____ of _____ ...” (Nahum 2:13)

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Look back at Nahum 1:1-2, 7-9 and 2:2 and note who the LORD is for and against in the book of Nahum:

For

Against

The passages above show that God is against those who oppose Him. What is God actually opposing? Read Romans 1:18, 1 Peter 3:12, and James 4:6 and write what you learn.

What is the great reversal seen in Nahum 2? Who will rise and who will fall? See verses 2 and 13.

Where do you see the depths of God's mercy in Nahum 2?

Where do we see God's mercy toward us, who once were enemies of God? Read Romans 5:9-11 and 8:31-39.

APPLICATION

As Christians, we believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, we believe that God is against sin and disobedience. We are all called to be a messenger of the Gospel. Write below the name of someone that you know needs to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for them, and for an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Practice the Gospel presentation you wrote on Day 5 of Lesson 6 (Jonah 3) or go to richlandcreek.com/everyone-a-witness/.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

While Nahum 2 refers to the fall of Nineveh and the entire Assyrian Empire, there will be a day—often referred to as “the Day of the LORD”—in which those who have become God’s people (through saving faith in Jesus Christ) and those who have rejected God will be distinguished. Read the following passages and record your thoughts on “the Day of the LORD.”

Obadiah 15-18

Malachi 4:5-6

Acts 2:16-21

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

Have you ever received “bad” or “unpleasant” news, but were able to understand how God could use that news for someone else’s good?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. There are many characteristics of God on display in this chapter. Choose one or two of the following and discuss what we learn about that attribute from Nahum 2: holy, immutable (unchanging), loving, just, merciful, patient, good, and peaceful.
2. What shadow of Jesus do you see if the restoration of “the majesty of Jacob/Israel” (verse 2) was not material or political, but spiritual?
3. What imagery or words from Nahum 2 stood out to you? Why?
4. “Why is it hard to think of God’s justice when people are suffering, even if the people have been wicked in the past?” (Christ-Centered Exposition, 168.)
5. Salvation and growing in Christlikeness (sanctification) are not biological or “caught” from being around people who are growing in their faith. Yet, is there a person in your life who has helped you grow in Christlikeness?
6. Since salvation and sanctification are not biological, how can we help those around us grow in Christlikeness?
7. How would the world view Nahum 2? What would their commentary be? What is the biblical way to view Nahum 2?
8. Have you ever felt or perhaps now feel, as though the LORD was against you or someone you love? If so, how does chapter 2 give you hope? How could you pass that hope on to someone else?
9. Where do you see the depths of God’s mercy in Nahum 2?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you’ve learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christlikeness?

LESSON ELEVEN

Nahum 3

The book of Nahum concludes with another vision of battle and a description of Nineveh's defeat. Like in the book of Jonah, the author ends with a question. We now know that for the repentant (i.e., the people of Nineveh in the book of Jonah), there is hope in the end. For the unrepentant (i.e., the people of Nineveh in the book of Nahum), the situation is hopeless. No one can actively oppose God and win. There will come a day for all of us when the time of mercy and grace is over. "Behold, I am against you." Can you imagine more serious words? May we heed the warning of Nahum and cast ourselves upon the mercy of Almighty God.

*"Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.'" (Isaiah 55:6-7)*

Day One

FOR REVIEW (NAHUM 2)

What is the great reversal seen in Nahum 2? Who will rise, and who will fall? Why?

Turn to Appendix 2. Read (or listen to) Nahum 1-3, drawing a box around every occurrence of the phrase “cut off” on the printed copy of the text.

Day Two

READ NAHUM 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-7 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Using a dictionary, look up the word “woe.” Write the appropriate definition below.

The word “woe” is a noun, meaning an idea or thought. This passage may be described as an oracle or pronouncement of judgment. What attribute(s) of God is Nahum displaying by pronouncing a “woe to the bloody city”?

What sin is leading to the destruction of “the bloody city”?

Verse 1 _____

Verse 4 _____

Verse 19 _____

What words or ideas from Nahum 2 are repeated in these verses?

What metaphor does God use to communicate the sin and shame of Nineveh?

Nakedness (as seen in verse 5) is often used symbolically for shame and dishonor in the Bible. Read Genesis 3. What is the connection between shame, dishonor, and nakedness in that passage? What is exposed, and what warning should we heed if we consider this truth in light of God's final judgment?

APPLICATION

Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame" so that all who look to Him can be confident that His coming will be the end of all shame. If you are a Christian, Jesus has already taken the consequences of your sin.

Does your life reflect shame over your sin, a belief in the lie that your actions or experiences can never be forgiven? Or does your life reflect the thankful freedom of knowing that Jesus took the consequences of your sin and offers forgiveness?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Nahum is pronouncing judgment, not lamentation or sadness, over Nineveh. In Matthew 23, Jesus pronounces "woes" on the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites. These were woes of judgment as well. Read Matthew 23:13-30. Draw a line from the "woe" pronounced to its actual meaning.

Day Three

READ NAHUM 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 8-11 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

These verses refer to the Assyrian capture and destruction of Thebes. Like Nineveh, its inhabitants thought their great Egyptian city was indestructible. What is God proving with the question, “Are you better than Thebes?” in verse 8?

Using the words of the text, describe the destruction of the “indestructible” city of Thebes in verse 10.

What attribute of the great city does verse 9a describe? Can this be true of any city? Why or why not? Flip to Appendix 1. Look through the definitions and write below the attributes of God that describe the One who truly displays this attribute “without limit.”

Using Nahum 1:7 and 3:11, compare and contrast the security of those whom the LORD is “for” and whom the LORD is “against.”

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

According to Psalm 2, there will be another time when judgment will be seen by “dashing to pieces.” Read Psalm 2 and fill in the following information.

Who is seen in Psalm 2? (There may be more than one)

What are God’s responses to “the nations”? (There may be more than one)

How does the description in Psalm 2:2 and verses Psalm 2:10-12 compare with Nahum 3:8-11?

APPLICATION

The cities of Thebes and Nineveh, even the whole Assyrian Empire, seemed indestructible and secure until conquered. All were prideful in their security, thinking they controlled their own rise and fall.

Every person who has ever lived (except the Lord Jesus) has been/is wrongfully prideful. Just as Thebes and Nineveh felt secure based on their actions, so too we feel secure based on our own actions. What actions provide you with a false sense of security?

If you are a Christian, write steps to take and/or verses to memorize that will remind you where your security truly lies.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

The phrase “casting lots” is defined in the Holman Christian Bible Dictionary as an action “that people of Old and New Testaments used to make decisions and believed God influenced the fall or outcome of the lots (Proverbs 16:33).” In verse 10, lots were cast for “honored men.” Read John 19:16-24 and Psalm 22:16-18.

How was the casting of lots part of our Lord’s dishonorable death?

List the two reasons for casting lots in John 19.

Day Four

READ NAHUM 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 12-17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What three specific parts of the Assyrian Empire do verses 12-17 address?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ wealth | _____ leadership |
| _____ military strength | _____ physical strength |
| _____ spiritual depravity | _____ physical defenses |

What metaphors in verses 12-13 emphasize Nineveh’s vulnerability?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Why should verses 14-16 be taken in a sarcastic tone — as if the author is taunting the Assyrians? Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.

According to verse 15, how will Nineveh ultimately be destroyed?

How does verse 17 describe the eventual status of Nineveh's leaders?

APPLICATION

Nineveh could plan and prepare, but the Lord decreed their downfall. Nothing thwarts His plan or purposes. While making plans and preparations, how often do you pray for the Lord's guidance or allow His Word to direct your steps?

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

In verse 16, God promises the Ninevites that, while at one time their “merchants were more than the stars of the heavens,” those same merchants would “fly away” at its destruction. God used the “stars of the heavens” in a promise to Israel. Trace these verses back to the individual who first received the promise.

Recipient of the Promise

Deuteronomy 1:10

Exodus 32:13

Genesis 26:3-4

Genesis 15:3-6

Day Five

READ NAHUM 3, FOCUSING ON VERSES 18-19 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Why would people be “scattered” with no one to gather them?

Who are the sleeping shepherds?

_____ king

_____ king's family

_____ nobles and officials

_____ Nineveh's shepherds

Throughout the Book of Nahum, the author switches between addressing the Assyrian Empire as a whole and Nineveh individually. In verse 19, he is even more specific—addressing the king himself. What does this say about the role of the king?

Describe the king's end (and Nineveh's). What does this vivid imagery emphasize?

How do the closing lines of Nahum connect to the opening lines in Nahum 1:2-8? Where does the emphasis fall?

Where do you see the depths of God's mercy in Nahum 3?

APPLICATION

Nahum and Jonah are the only books of the Bible that end with rhetorical questions. In our pursuit of Christlikeness, asking introspective questions is vital. We must continually press our lives up against God's Word.

"How do I start," you might ask? At Richland Creek, our pastors created a written explanation of biblical goals and measurements for spiritual growth—from the commands of Scripture. This document, and the class associated with it, is called Discipleship Foundations. We can use the discipleship goals to ask thoughtful questions to help us grow in Christlikeness. Answer the questions honestly and make a growth plan. Write down the name of one person who could help you in your pursuit of Christlikeness.

1. Love God in His Word

Do I believe God's Word has authority in all areas of my life?

Do I understand that regular study of God's Word—on my own and with other believers—is necessary to grow in my love for and knowledge of God?

Plan for Growth:

2. Love God in Prayer

Do I have a regular habit of praying privately and with other believers?

Do my prayers include praising God for who He is, repenting of sin, giving thanks for His blessings, and humbly asking for His provision?

Plan for Growth:

3. Love God in My Witness

Do I see evangelism as a command of Scripture to each believer—myself included?

Do I understand that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone?

Plan for Growth:

4. Love God in Worship

Do I understand that everything I do ought to be an act of worship in response to God's love for me and an expression of my love for Him?

Do I have a habit of regular worship through private devotion and in church gatherings?

Plan for Growth:

5. Love Others Through Biblical Community

Do I identify as a member of the covenant body of Christ—that is, the church?

Do I understand the biblical commands for loving one another and their implications for my life?

Plan for Growth:

6. Love Others Through Ministry

Do I understand my own spiritual gift(s) and my indispensable role within the church?

Do I regularly serve the church, using my gifts for the glory of God and the good of others?

Plan for Growth:

7. Love Others Through Generosity

Do I understand that biblically, giving is both a command and a privilege, and should be done joyfully?

Do I regularly give sacrificially through my church to advance God's kingdom agenda?

Plan for Growth:

8. Love Others While on Mission

Do I understand that my responsibility as a Christian is to make disciples among all nations?

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Do I understand that God's heart is for people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to worship Him?

Plan for Growth:

For more comprehensive explanation of the Discipleship Goals, visit richlandcreek.com/about-us/discipleship-goals/

Who will I ask for help to grow in Christlikeness? _____

FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Throughout the Bible, our Triune God is compared to a shepherd. Draw a line from each passage to the person of the Trinity it references. Then, draw a sheep beside the passage that was most personal to you.

Passage:

Person of the Trinity:

Genesis 48:15-16

God the Father (Lord God)

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:10-11

John 10:11

God the Son (Jesus)

Hebrews 13:20

1 Peter 2:25

For Personal Reflection

How would you summarize this week's passage in 1-2 sentences?

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Pray about what you learned using the ACTSS model of prayer below. You may find it helpful to write your prayer in the space provided below.

Adoration – Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Praise Him for what you learned about Him.

Confession – Acknowledge the way(s) in which you fell short this week. Be honest and transparent.

Thanksgiving – As a sinner saved by grace, express gratitude for God's mercy and His many blessings.

Supplication – Approach God confidently by faith. Ask with the right motives.

Submission – Attitude is everything. With a humble heart, pray God's will be done.

Lecture Notes

[illegible]

Group Time

WARM UP QUESTION

What is your most vivid memory of applause (at a recital, sporting event, wedding, presentation, etc.)? Were you doing the applauding? Were others applauding for you? Or both?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

1. There are many characteristics of God on display in this chapter. What aspect of God's character stood out above the rest? Why?
2. Have you participated in our equipping/discipleship program at the Creek? If so, what impact have the discipleship goals had on your pursuit of Christlikeness? What can you share to honor God and encourage the women in your group who have not participated?
3. What imagery or words from Nahum 3 stood out to you? Why?
4. What is the connection between shame, dishonor, and nakedness in the Scriptures (Genesis 3)? What is exposed, and what warning should consider in light of God's Final Judgment?
5. Where do you see the depths of God's mercy in Nahum 3?
6. Nineveh could plan and prepare, but the Lord decreed their downfall. Nothing thwarts His plan or purposes. While making plans and preparations, how often do you pray for the Lord's guidance or allow His Word to direct your steps?
7. Every person who has ever lived (except the Lord Jesus) has been/is wrongfully prideful. Just as Thebes and Nineveh felt secure based on their actions, so too we feel secure based on our own actions. What actions provide you with a false sense of security? If you are a Christian, what steps can you take and/or verses should you memorize to remind you where your security truly lies?
8. Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame" so that all who look to Him can be confident that His coming will be the end of all shame. Does your life reflect shame over your sin, a belief in the lie that your actions or experiences can never be forgiven? Does your life reflect the thankful freedom of knowing the truth that Jesus took the consequences of your sin and offers forgiveness?
9. How does what you learned this week compare/contrast with "worldly wisdom" today? How are God's ways different from the world?
10. We seek to imitate Christ by loving God and loving others. As a result of what you've learned from the text this week, what are some specific actions you can take to grow in Christlikeness?

LESSON TWELVE

Praise Week

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

Before this semester began, we (the MBS Leadership Team) prayed for you. The passage above was at the forefront of our minds because we knew your participation in this Bible study was not accidental. God knew you would be exactly where you are, this very moment, reading these words: God's Word shall not return void. His Word will accomplish the purpose He intends for every one of us!

This week, we encourage you to reflect upon all that you've learned about God and consider the way(s) in which He has worked in your life as you faithfully studied His Word. When we come together for our final meeting, you will have the opportunity to honor and praise the LORD by sharing this with our class.

Day One

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND NOTE YOUR RESPONSES BELOW.

What truth about God's character, conduct, or concerns impacted you most this semester?
What difference will this make in your relationship with Him in the future? How will it help you to love God?

Day Two

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND NOTE YOUR RESPONSE BELOW.

Has what you learned about God impacted your perspective regarding your current circumstances? If so, how?

Day Three

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND NOTE YOUR RESPONSE BELOW.

As a result of what you've learned from God's Word this semester, what truth(s) did you apply to your life or put into practice? What difference did those specific actions make as you sought to grow in Christlikeness? Do you look more like Jesus today than you did the day you began this Bible study?

Day Four

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND NOTE YOUR RESPONSE BELOW.

What impact has God's Word had on your worldview this semester? How has this study prepared you to combat "worldly wisdom" today?

Day Five

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER REFLECTING ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND NOTE YOUR RESPONSE BELOW.

How will what you've learned help you to love others? How has it impacted how you relate to family, friends, neighbors, and other believers vs. unbelievers?

As you prepare to come together and share this week, remember what an encouragement it will be for others to hear how God is working in your life through the faithful study of His Word. Great is the LORD! Read Psalm 145.

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.*
- ² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.*
- ³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.*
- ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.*
- ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.*
- ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

- 9 The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.*
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!*
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,*
- 12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*
- [The Lord is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.]*
- 14 The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.*
- 15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.*
- 16 You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.*
- 17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.*
- 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.*
- 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.*
- 20 The Lord preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.*
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.*

Share as the Spirit leads you, and please keep the following ABC's for Praise Day in mind:

Audible – Speak so everyone can hear. Hold the microphone close.

Brief – Limit remarks to 1-2 minutes and only speak once, so we can hear from as many ladies as possible (DGLs are encouraged to share, too!).

Christ-centered – This is a time to praise God, not each other.

Discreet – Be respectful and use discretion if sharing something God is doing that also impacted someone else in your life. Please consider whether or not they would be ok with you sharing that information.

Embarrassment – Don't let this hold you back from sharing! Praise Him!!

Fear – Don't let this hold you back from sharing! Honor Him!!

Glory – God alone is worthy of our praise. To Him be the glory. Great things He has done!

APPENDIX 1



Navigator
Discipleship
Tool

God is...

30 DAYS OF PRAYING the Names and Attributes of God

Though God is infinitely far above our ability to fully understand, through the Scriptures He tells us truths about Himself so that we can know Him, and be drawn to worship Him. Take a description of God and meditate on it for a day.

① JEHOVAH

The name of the independent, self-complete being—"I AM WHO I AM"—only belongs to Jehovah God. Our proper response to Him is to fall down in fear and awe of the One who possesses all authority. *Exodus 3:13-15*

② JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH

This name means "the God who sanctifies." A God separate from all that is evil requires that the people who follow Him be cleansed from all evil. *Leviticus 20:7,8*

③ INFINITE

God is beyond measurement—we cannot define Him by size or amount. He has no beginning, no end, and no limits. *Romans 11:33*

④ OMNIPOTENT

God is all-powerful. He spoke all things into being, and all things—every cell, every breath, every thought—are sustained by Him. Nothing is too difficult for Him. *Jeremiah 32:17,18, 26,27*

⑤ GOOD

God is the embodiment of perfect goodness, and is kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all creation. *Psalms 119:65-72*

⑥ LOVE

God's love is so great that He gave His only Son to bring us into fellowship with Him. His love encompasses the world, and embraces each of us personally and intimately. *1 John 4:7-10*

⑦ JEHOVAH-JIREH

"The God who provides." Just as He provided yesterday, He will provide today and tomorrow. He grants deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship in His Kingdom for all those adopted into His household. *Genesis 22:9-14*

⑧ JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"The God of peace." We are meant to know the fullness of God's perfect peace, His "shalom." God's peace surpasses understanding and sustains us through difficult times. It's the product of fully being what we were created to be. *Judges 6:16-24*

⑨ IMMUTABLE

All that God is, He has always been. All that He has been and is, He will ever be. He is ever perfect and unchanging. *Psalms 102:25-28*

⑩ TRANSCENDENT

God is not simply the highest in an order of beings (this would be to grant Him eminence). He is transcendent—existing beyond and above the created universe. *Psalms 113:4,5*

⑪ JUST

God is righteous and holy, fair and equitable in all things. We can trust Him to always do what is right. *Psalms 75:1-7*

⑫ HOLY

God's holiness is not a better version of the best we know. God is utterly and supremely untainted. His holiness stands apart—unique and incomprehensible. *Revelation 4:8-11*



THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit navlink.org/names-of-God
Sources: *The Knowledge of the Holy*, by A.W. Tozer; *Names of God*, by Nathan Stone; and *God of Glory*, by Kenneth Landon.



Navigator Discipleship Tool

God is...

⑬ JEHOVAH-ROPHE

"Jehovah heals." God alone provides the remedy for mankind's brokenness through His son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people. *Exodus 15:22-26*

⑭ SELF-SUFFICIENT

All things are God's to give, and all that is given is given by Him. He can receive nothing that He has not already given us. *Acts 17:24-28*

⑮ OMNISCIENT

God is all-knowing. God's knowledge encompasses every possible thing that exists, has ever existed, or will ever exist. Nothing is a mystery to Him. *Psalms 139:1-6*

⑯ OMNIPRESENT

God is everywhere, in and around everything, close to everyone. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord." *Psalms 139:7-12*

⑰ MERCIFUL

God's merciful compassion is infinite and inexhaustible. Through Christ, He took the judgment that was rightfully ours and placed it on His own shoulders. He waits and works now for all people to turn to Him and to live under His justification. *Deuteronomy 4:29-31*

⑱ SOVEREIGN

God presides over every event, great or small, and He is in control of our lives. To be sovereign, He must be all-knowing and all-powerful, and by His sovereignty He rules His entire creation. *1 Chronicles 29:11-13*

⑲ JEHOVAH-NISSI

"God our banner." Under His banner we go from triumph to triumph and say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). *Exodus 17:8-15*

⑳ WISE

All God's acts are accomplished through His infinite wisdom. He always acts for our good, which is to conform us to Christ. Our good and His glory are inextricably bound together. *Proverbs 3:19,20*

㉑ FAITHFUL

Out of His faithfulness God honors His covenants and fulfills His promises. Our hope for the future rests upon God's faithfulness. *Psalms 89:1-8*

㉒ WRATHFUL

Unlike human anger, God's wrath is never capricious, self-indulgent, or irritable. It is the right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. *Nahum 1:2-8*

㉓ FULL OF GRACE

Grace is God's good pleasure that moves Him to grant merit where it is undeserved and to forgive debt that cannot be repaid. *Ephesians 1:5-8*

㉔ OUR COMFORTER

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Comforter," and the apostle Paul writes that the Lord is "the God of all comfort." *2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

㉕ EL-SHADDAI

"God Almighty," the God who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessings. *Genesis 49:22-26*

㉖ FATHER

Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), and the Spirit of God taught us to cry, "Abba, Father," an intimate Aramaic term similar to "Daddy." The Creator of the universe cares for each one of us. *Romans 8:15-17*

㉗ THE CHURCH'S HEAD

God the Son, Jesus, is the head of the Church. As the head, the part of the body that sees, hears, thinks, and decides, He gives the orders that the rest of the body lives by. *Ephesians 1:22,23*

㉘ OUR INTERCESSOR

Knowing our temptations, God the Son intercedes for us. He opens the doors for us to boldly ask God the Father for mercy. Thus, God is both the initiation and conclusion of true prayer. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

㉙ ADONAI

"Master" or "Lord." All God's people ought to acknowledge themselves as His servants, with His right to reign as Lord of our lives. *2 Samuel 7:18-20*

㉚ ELOHIM

"Strength" or "Power": He is transcendent, mighty and strong. This name displays His supreme power, sovereignty, and faithfulness in His covenant relationship with us. *Genesis 17:7,8*



THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit navlink.org/names-of-God
Sources: *The Knowledge of the Holy*, by A.W. Tozer; *Names of God*, by Nathan Stone; and *God of Glory*, by Kenneth Landon.

APPENDIX 2

Text of Jonah

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

⁷ And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹ And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” ¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tem-

pestuous against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

¹⁷ And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying,
 “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress,
 and he answered me;
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
 and you heard my voice.

³ For you cast me into the deep,
 into the heart of the seas,
 and the flood surrounded me;
 all your waves and your billows
 passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away
 from your sight;
 yet I shall again look
 upon your holy temple.’

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life;
 the deep surrounded me;
 weeds were wrapped about my head

⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
 whose bars closed upon me forever;
 yet you brought up my life from the pit,
 O Lord my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away,
 I remembered the Lord,

and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the Lord!"

¹⁰ And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

3 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and

merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶ Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

APPENDIX 3

Text of Nahum

1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord is avenging and wrathful;
the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries
and keeps wrath for his enemies.

3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
he dries up all the rivers;
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the bloom of Lebanon withers.

5 The mountains quake before him;
the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him,
the world and all who dwell in it.

6 Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

7 The Lord is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.

8 But with an overflowing flood
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

9 What do you plot against the Lord?
He will make a complete end;
trouble will not rise up a second time.

10 For they are like entangled thorns,
like drunkards as they drink;
they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

11 From you came one
who plotted evil against the Lord,
a worthless counselor.

12 Thus says the Lord,
"Though they are at full strength and many,
they will be cut down and pass away.
Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.

13 And now I will break his yoke from off you
and will burst your bonds apart."

14 The Lord has given commandment about you:
"No more shall your name be perpetuated;
from the house of your gods I will cut off
the carved image and the metal image.
I will make your grave, for you are vile."

15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him
who brings good news,
who publishes peace!
Keep your feasts, O Judah;
fulfill your vows,
for never again shall the worthless pass through you;
he is utterly cut off.

2 The scatterer has come up against you.
 2 Man the ramparts;
 watch the road;
 dress for battle;
 collect all your strength.

2 For the Lord is restoring the majesty of Jacob
 as the majesty of Israel,
 for plunderers have plundered them
 and ruined their branches.

3 The shield of his mighty men is red;
 his soldiers are clothed in scarlet.
 The chariots come with flashing metal
 on the day he musters them;
 the cypress spears are brandished.

4 The chariots race madly through the streets;
 they rush to and fro through the squares;
 they gleam like torches;
 they dart like lightning.

5 He remembers his officers;
 they stumble as they go,
 they hasten to the wall;
 the siege tower is set up.

6 The river gates are opened;
 the palace melts away;

7 its mistress is stripped; she is carried off,
 her slave girls lamenting,
 moaning like doves
 and beating their breasts.

8 Nineveh is like a pool
 whose waters run away.
 "Halt! Halt!" they cry,

but none turns back.

⁹ Plunder the silver,

plunder the gold!

There is no end of the treasure
or of the wealth of all precious things.

¹⁰ Desolate! Desolation and ruin!

Hearts melt and knees tremble;

anguish is in all loins;

all faces grow pale!

¹¹ Where is the lions' den,

the feeding place of the young lions,

where the lion and lioness went,

where his cubs were, with none to disturb?

¹² The lion tore enough for his cubs

and strangled prey for his lionesses;

he filled his caves with prey

and his dens with torn flesh.

¹³ Behold, I am against you, declares the Lord of hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard.

3 Woe to the bloody city,
all full of lies and plunder—

no end to the prey!

² The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel,

galloping horse and bounding chariot!

³ Horsemen charging,

flashing sword and glittering spear,

hosts of slain,

heaps of corpses,

dead bodies without end—

they stumble over the bodies!

⁴ And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute,
graceful and of deadly charms,
who betrays nations with her whorings,
and peoples with her charms.

⁵ Behold, I am against you,
declares the Lord of hosts,
and will lift up your skirts over your face;
and I will make nations look at your nakedness
and kingdoms at your shame.

⁶ I will throw filth at you
and treat you with contempt
and make you a spectacle.

⁷ And all who look at you will shrink from you and say,
“Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?”
Where shall I seek comforters for you?

⁸ Are you better than Thebes
that sat by the Nile,
with water around her,
her rampart a sea,
and water her wall?

⁹ Cush was her strength;
Egypt too, and that without limit;
Put and the Libyans were her helpers.

¹⁰ Yet she became an exile;
she went into captivity;
her infants were dashed in pieces
at the head of every street;
for her honored men lots were cast,
and all her great men were bound in chains.

¹¹ You also will be drunken;

you will go into hiding;
you will seek a refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortresses are like fig trees
with first-ripe figs—
if shaken they fall
into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, your troops
are women in your midst.
The gates of your land
are wide open to your enemies;
fire has devoured your bars.

14 Draw water for the siege;
strengthen your forts;
go into the clay;
tread the mortar;
take hold of the brick mold!

15 There will the fire devour you;
the sword will cut you off.
It will devour you like the locust.
Multiply yourselves like the locust;
multiply like the grasshopper!

16 You increased your merchants
more than the stars of the heavens.
The locust spreads its wings and flies away.

17 Your princes are like grasshoppers,
your scribes like clouds of locusts
settling on the fences
in a day of cold—
when the sun rises, they fly away;
no one knows where they are.

18 Your shepherds are asleep,

O king of Assyria;
your nobles slumber.
Your people are scattered on the mountains
with none to gather them.
19 There is no easing your hurt;
your wound is grievous.
All who hear the news about you
clap their hands over you.
For upon whom has not come
your unceasing evil?

A P P E N D I X 4

Memory Passage

"SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH." (JOHN 17:17)

Hide God's Word in your heart. Let's memorize the following passage this semester:

- ² The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord is avenging and wrathful;
the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries
and keeps wrath for his enemies.
- ³ The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
- ⁴ He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
he dries up all the rivers;
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the bloom of Lebanon withers.
- ⁵ The mountains quake before him;
the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him,
the world and all who dwell in it.
- ⁶ Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.
- ⁷ The Lord is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.
- ⁸ But with an overflowing flood
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness."

A P P E N D I X 5

Resources

NOTE: Though biblical scholars and historians provide invaluable information in study Bible notes and Bible dictionaries, please remember that they are not God's infallible Word. You will use these tools to define words, understand the context, discover themes, etc. However, we encourage you to work through each passage without the aid of commentaries—which often prevent you from the joy of growing in Bible study skills. The best time to consult commentaries is after personal study and discussion group time.

Here is a list of helpful tools and recommended online resources to aid in Bible study.

STUDY BIBLE

ESV Study Bible (free online version at esv.org)

NIV Zondervan Study Bible

NKJV MacArthur Study Bible

BIBLE DICTIONARY

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Free online version at studylight.org/dictionaries/eng/hbd.html)

Parallel Bible (study verses, side-by-side, in multiple translations) (biblestudytools.com/parallel-bible/)

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Bible Gateway (biblegateway.com and biblegateway.com/resources/audio/)

Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)

Bible Hub (biblehub.com)

APPENDIX 6

Goal Plan

Please fill this out as you learn each of the Foundations. Please use pencil so that you can edit your plan easily as you grow.

DISCIPLINE	Plan A	Plan B
BIBLE STUDY	What: When: Tools: Where:	What: When: Tools: Where:
PRAYER	When: Where:	When: Where:
WORSHIP		
WITNESS		
COMMUNITY		
MINISTRY		
GENEROSITY		
ON MISSION		

PRAYER CALENDAR

DAY OF WEEK	PRAYER TOPIC
MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	

