

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

In chapter 3 of Jonah, we now see that Jonah is willing to follow the Lord in an obedient way. In chapter 2, he spent three days in the belly of the fish, and truly has a transformative moment in his life where he fully commits himself to the Lord. Jonah does not just do this in order to save his life, but he is doing it because he sees what God is trying to do with his life. He is willing to walk in obedience, and now God gives Jonah the same command as before, and we are going to discuss the difference between chapters 1 and 2. Notice how God is working through Jonah, and also note how the people of Nineveh react to the confidence that Jonah shows in the Lord.

READ Jonah 3:1-10

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I will you." **3** So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three day journey in extent. **4** And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" **5** So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on a sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. **6** Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. **7** And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles saying, "Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. **8** But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. **9** Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?" **10** Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. How is Jonah's response different from the one he had in chapter 1?
2. What is it like when we do walk in obedience of the Lord and follow a similar call to what Jonah did?
3. Have you had someone impact you when they have walked in the confidence of the Lord? Explain.
4. What does the end of chapter 3 tell us about God?
5. How can we walk in confidence and obedience of the Lord, especially in today's world?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- Chapter 3 shows us that when we truly submit to the Lord, God is ready and willing to use us in any way that He has designed. Jonah shows us this as he receives the same command of God, but the action is completely different. Instead of running in the opposite direction, Jonah walks into Nineveh and speaks the name of the Lord. This leads others to recognize God and to come into submission of Him. This then ends the chapter with God recognizing the heart change that the people there have. Hearing the word of God came through Jonah's confidence to trust in the Lord, which is both a testimony to Jonah as well as the people of Nineveh. As an application this week, think about how your walk with God has brought honor and glory to His kingdom. Have your actions and words reflected one that is running from God, or one that is running toward Him and seeking to walk in obedience of His name.