

15 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Jonah



Let's hear your story

1. How would you encourage a friend, family member or work colleague that really needs a second chance?
2. Which well-known New Testament apostle received a second chance like Jonah? (**The apostle Peter; see John 21:15 – 19.**)
3. How do we know Nineveh was a large city? (**See Jonah 3:3; Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.**)
4. What was Jonah's message to Nineveh in v.4? (**Jonah; "yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."**)



Let's go deeper

5. How did the people of Nineveh respond in v.5? (**The people of Nineveh believed, proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth.**)
6. How did the king respond in v.6? (**He rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.**)
7. What did the king proclaim to the people of Nineveh in v.8? (**Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence in his hands.**)
8. How did God respond to the people of Nineveh in v.10? (**When God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, He relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them.**)



Let's apply this

9. God's Word brings a king and a violent city to its knees:

We read in v.6; that the king rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. This is in response to Jonah's Word from the Lord.

- The Word of God is the power of God.
- Ask God for a Word or message to bless a friend or family member.
- Allow God's Word to change your life and situations.
- Build your life and future on the powerful Word of God.

SUMMARY:

- **Jonah - Week 3**

Read: Jonah 3:1 – 10; Nahum 3:1 – 4 and Hebrews 4:12.

v.1 – 2; God speaks a second time to Jonah. We serve a God who gives second chances. Peter in the New Testament, betrays and denies God, and Jesus restores him. Jonah is kind of, the Peter of the Old Testament, God told him to do something, he didn't do it, God met with him, restored him and is still worked through him.

v.3 – 4; Jonah preaches in Nineveh. Nineveh was a big city; a three-day journey around this massive city. God loves cities and God wants us to have his heart for all cities, especially our city. Nineveh was a horrible city (see Nahum 3:1 – 4). Jonah began to go into the city and he is preaching, declaring and proclaiming; 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown. He says, "yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." that's it. He doesn't say God loves you, He forgives you, He has a wonderful plan for your life, no he says, "40 days and you're on fire" and walks away. Sometimes eight words are enough, if those are God's words.

v.5 – 9; The king rose from his throne removed his robe covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes and issued a National Day of Repentance. When the Word of God comes it comes with the power of God and it doesn't matter how powerful a nation is, the Word of God is more powerful, it doesn't matter how powerful a king is, the Word of God is more powerful, it doesn't matter how powerful a people are, the Word of God is more powerful.

v.10; Why is God so committed to communicating through Jonah? Not because He needs Jonah but because He loves Jonah. And He wants Jonah, to experience His mercy and then He wants to speak through Jonah to others about His mercy. God doesn't need us, God can do whatever He wants to do without us, God doesn't need me He could do whatever He wants to do without me. But God invites us because He loves us and He wants to do a work in us. Not just through us, but in us.

God keeps trying to get Jonah to work with Him. Because He loved the Ninevites? And He loves Jonah. God wants to do a great work through you and us, because God loves all the people in our city.

Jesus is greater than Jonah:

Jonah travelled from Israel to Nineveh, but Jesus travelled from heaven to earth. Jonah went to Nineveh unwillingly, but Jesus came to the earth willingly. Jonah came forth from a fish, but Jesus came forth from a grave. Jonah preached a few words for God, but Jesus came as the Word of God. Jonah saw one nation bow their knee to God, Jesus is God before whom every knee from every nation will bow.