

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 11, 2018

Passage: Jonah 3:1-10

Memory Passage: Jonah 3:9

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 3:1-10.** This is the second time the word of the Lord comes to Jonah concerning Nineveh, but this time Jonah obeys. What does this teach us about the methods God uses to bring us into submission to His will?

(b) Why is God so specific about the message Jonah is to preach in Nineveh: “*the message that I tell you.*” (v.2)? What does this tell us about how we are to handle God’s word today?

(c) What is significant about the “forty days” in v.4? What other events in scripture can you think of that lasted 40 days (or years)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 3:1-10.** How does the response of the Ninevites compare to that of the sailors in Chapter 1?

(b) Verse 5 tells us that the people of Nineveh believed God. As far as we are told in the text, what was/were the specific truth(s) that they believed, and why is this important?

(c) Why did the people call for a fast and put on sackcloth?

(d) What do the Ninevites’ actions tell us about their understanding of Jonah’s message?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 3:1-10.** What is the king’s **personal** response when he hears of Jonah’s message?

(b) Why does the king issue a decree to his subjects instructing them to refrain from food and water, and cover themselves with sackcloth? Couldn’t the king be accused of trying to “legislate morality” by doing this?

(c) Why are the animals included in the king’s decree?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jonah 3:1-10.** What is implied in the phrase “*let them call out mightily to God*” (v.8)?
- (b) What are the “evil ways” and “violence” that the people are ordered to “turn from” (v.8)?
- (c) Why does the king entertain the notion that God might turn and relent from His fierce anger? Was there anything in Jonah’s message that might have led him to have this glimmer of hope?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jonah 3:1-10.** How does the example of the Ninevites’ repentance provide an example for us today? What are some characteristics of true repentance?
- (b) How is it possible that God relented of the disaster that He said He would bring upon the Ninevites? Did God change His mind? Was His message through Jonah just an idle threat? (See also: Exodus 32:14; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Isaiah 31:2; Jeremiah 26:19).
- (c) How should Jonah’s message to Nineveh serve as a warning to us today?
- (d) How should God’s response to the people of Nineveh give hope and comfort to believers today?

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Nineveh Repents; God Relents