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**"Jonah did not weep over the city, but Jesus, the true prophet, did.... Here is a perfect heart—perfect in generous love—not excusing, not harshly condemning. "**

[Tim Keller]

## ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

What is the one thing you've had to repeat over and over—your "if I had a dime for every time I've said..." phrase?

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, prepare our hearts so that we can receive Your word as readily and as eagerly as Ninevah did. Get ego and pride and walls out of the way, so that the second Your word touches our ears, our hearts receive it gladly. Amen.

*"Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts."*

[Psalm 90:12]

## BIG IDEA ||

God works **IN** Jonah so that He might work **THROUGH** Jonah.

## PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || [Jonah 3](#)

1. *There are several types of grace in Jonah: rescuing, equipping, saving, and never-excusing grace.* What do you usually think of when you hear the word "grace"?
2. Why do you think God gave them a deadline warning? Why 40 days?
3. If you knew that God was going to do something about the state of your city in 40 days, what would you do?
4. We don't know when God is going to act. Why aren't we doing those things?
5. Has God, in His grace, given you a warning before? Given you guidance? How did He speak?
6. How do you usually hear from God?
7. How do you usually listen for God?
8. Why did God turn back His wrath and change His mind?
9. In the sermon, Matt asked, "Are we serious about knowing, experiencing, and serving, God?" How would you know if you were serious about those things? What would you be prioritizing?

if that were your number one goal for your day?

10. Imagine Jonah showed up in your community with the same message. How can you be ready to hear a message from God in the next 40 days?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

In Jonah we see the thoroughness of God's commitment to make us **faithful and fruitful for His glory**.

*As you consider your next step, reflect on:* 1) How are you spending your next 40 days? 2) How can you prepare yourself to hear gracious warnings from God?

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne. The possible next steps of faith below are not for discussion, but simply a resource for your group members.*

## Step of Faith Ideas

1. Be surprisingly open to God changing your mind this week. Receive His word with gladness.
2. Pick a verse this week to meditate on and receive its words, accepting them wholeheartedly.

## PRAYER FOCUS ||

### Who Knows?

Nothing we do is a guarantee to "make God" do anything. No prayer, no act, no invocation. God is God, and He chooses how He will respond. Trust doesn't control—but who knows? God may do something amazing. Don't you want to be positioned where you'll get to watch Him? Up close?

- Spend some time every day this week talking to God about the things that are bothering you.
- Ask God what is bothering Him.
- Keep your eyes open to see things from God's perspective as you read His word each day.
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
  - *"Make us ready to receive Your word like Ninevites. Take this bunch of Jonahs and prepare us to hear, turn back home, and leave our old ways behind in the dust. Amen."*