



Sermon Growth Guide

May 5, 2024

Jonah's Errand - Who Knows?

Jonah 3:1-10

Key Verse: Jonah 3:9

“Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

Big Idea: Perhaps the greatest gift of God's grace is not our experience of it, but rather having the privilege of helping another encounter His grace.

Foundations

This Sunday, Jonah finally makes it to Nineveh. After encountering the grace of God in the belly of a great fish, he now experiences the grace of God at work in a great city. Jonah's Errand is almost complete as he delivers the message God gives him.

We read that the Ninevites from least to greatest believe God. Wow! Jonah is barely a day into his three-day task, and God's message is spreading like wildfire. The people are responsive.

“The people of Nineveh listened and trusted God” (Jonah 3:5a, The Message). Listen and trust. The people of Nineveh are able to do what Jonah has struggled to do so far: listen to and trust God.

As you read this passage together, try to envision what is happening. Picture 120,000 people. Picture Jonah walking through the city and preaching, “40 more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

Imagine people and animals in sackcloth and sitting down in the dirt. Picture the King of Nineveh doing the same and then writing his decree.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Jonah 3.

What do you notice?
What do we learn about who God is?
What do we learn about God's heart?

Read Joel 2: 12-14.

What do you make of the similarities between the words of Joel and the King of Nineveh?

Applying God's Word

What does it look like for you to listen to and trust God?

How do you cultivate a responsive heart?

Do you resonate with Jonah's struggle to obey?

Witnessing God's Word

Take some time in silence to ask the Lord if there are one or two people he is asking you to move toward with God's grace and good news.

If you already picked up the Jonah's Errand tool in worship, share what you heard from God.

Close in prayer.