



God Of Another Chance - Week 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series *Storms*, we will dive into the life of Jonah and see that God is the God of another chance, and He can turn things around in our lives like no one else.

DISCUSSION

- How has giving someone another chance led to an unexpected outcome in your life?

Jonah 1:1-3: Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

God calls Jonah with a specific assignment, then we see Jonah’s unfortunate response to God’s call—he ran. He was fleeing from the Lord and God’s purpose for his life. God allowed a storm to grab Jonah’s attention. He was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish. He was inside the fish for three days and learned some very important lessons. As you might imagine, when Jonah realized his situation, he began to pray.

In God’s mercy, no matter how far we run—as long as we turn back to Him—His plans for us never change. We see this redemption in **Jonah 3:1-2: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”** God’s mercy shines in the book of Jonah so we can see what giving another chance looks like. God’s a picture of mercy.

- Have you ever resisted following God’s direction or purpose in your life? Share.
- If we know that God’s instructions for us are always good, why do you think we have the temptation to run in the opposite direction?

God’s plan for everyone involves using us as an instrument of His mercy. If we don’t learn to become “people of another chance” we will miss His ultimate plan for us. We are all called to live as ambassadors of God’s love and mercy! Jonah ends up going to Nineveh and preaches to them. The whole city repented, called out to God from a broken heart, and stopped their evil ways. The same mercy God showed Jonah, He showed the Ninevites.

- Give an example of a time when you experienced God’s redemption.
- How can we be more encouraged to show mercy to others?

Three Keys to Becoming A “Person of Another Chance”:

1. Obey God—even if you’re **confused or conflicted**.

Jonah 3:3: 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.

Make a decision today to live a life of trusting God, of obedience. The measure of your maturity in Christ is the time and distance between God speaking and you responding. Our job when we hear God’s voice is to respond.

- In what ways can we grow in our obedience to the Lord?

2. Expect good **fruit**.

Jonah 3:5: So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. When we obey, God shows up. With Jonah, people repented. Lives were changed. God brings the increase. When we obey, good things happen. When we live as “People of Another Chance” we open the door for God to do anything – to open the windows of Heaven! As we, through extending mercy to others, keep the door open to their hearts, the Holy Spirit can begin to move, and anything is possible!

- How have you experienced God’s blessing from your obedience?

3. Get a **heart check-up** — every day.

Sadly, if we peek over the fence into the next chapter, we see Jonah in another difficult place. **Jonah 4:1: But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.** Jonah was angry that the whole city of Nineveh repented and received God’s mercy. God forgave them and blotted out their sins. Jonah forgot his own shortcomings, failures, and all God had done for him. He forgot how God rescued him from the inside of a fish just a few days earlier. He felt the people didn’t deserve that same mercy. We should always remember what God has done for us—how He’s saved us and set us free, and that His desire is for everyone to turn to Him. We need to make sure every day to keep our heart right before God and others.

If you learn to ask the Holy Spirit to search you daily, it becomes much easier to extend a cup of mercy to those around you. David says in **Psalm 139:23-24** says: **Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

- Why is it important to ask God to search our hearts daily?
- Give some examples of how we can continue to walk with a pure heart.

LIFE CHALLENGE

Ask the Holy Spirit to search you daily. Who do you need to extend mercy to? There’s no limit to the mercy of God. Even in a storm, commit to a life of mercy and obedience. We should care more about who we are called to serve than what we are called to do. Our job is to keep our heart clean so love and mercy can flow through.

PRAY TOGETHER