

# JONAH

## GOD'S STUBBORN LOVE IS TRIUMPHANT

Week 4



**JUSTICE OR MERCY**  
God's heart is moved  
with mercy  
For the lost.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

It's been said that you're only as good as your last sermon. If that's the case, then Jonah should be good to go. But we learn from this chapter that it's not just the sermon that's preached it's the attitude that it's preached with that matters. And Jonah's attitude was pretty stinky (not because of 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the great fish).

You see, Jonah knew that God was a loving God and God's love was the last thing he wanted for Nineveh. This was his hang up all along, and this crummy attitude was something that he never seemed to get over. Thankfully, the love of God was greater than the disposition of the prophet.

Despite his unrepentance, God not only loved Jonah, He rescued the least deserving people on the face of the planet. Why? Because God cares about people's souls. That is the issue and it will always be the issue. Don't lose focus because of politics, causes, or group think. What matters to the heart of God is saving the heart of the person!



### WATCH

Play the video prepared for this lesson by Pastor Derek. Video sessions are available for download at [www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS](http://www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS)



### PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment and discuss how important God's love is and how it's what our country needs right now..



### REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

1. It's possible that Jonah didn't want to be the prophet to rescue Nineveh because it wouldn't have been good for his reputation. Jonah's preference was judgment over mercy.

**Are there people or groups that you would prefer God judged instead of loved? Who are they? Choose to pray for them this week. That God would pour out His grace and love upon them. Expect God to touch them and change you.**

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2. Was there a time in your life that God "still blessed" you when you really didn't deserve it? Of course, we never deserve the blessings of God, but identify those times when your attitude was bad and God still showered you with grace and love.

**What were the key lessons that you learned in those moments? Share with the group.**

***"If His glory means your humbling, it's worth it."***

Derek Neider

3. News flash to Jonah, God's love wasn't the problem it was the solution. News flash to Christians today, God's love is still the solution. It's too easy for us to get caught up in the politics and the causes and forget what matters most and that's the saving of people's souls. Encourage your homegroup to focus on the gospel and God's desire to reach the lost.

**How can your homegroup mobilize to bring the message of hope to Las Vegas and the world? Come up with concrete ideas. Pray about them as a group and then do it!**

***"Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name."***

Psalm 63:3 -4

4. In this story, the only thing more stubborn than Jonah was the love of God. Even in Jonah's rebellion God demonstrated mercy to the sailors that called on His name.

**What does that tell us about God's love and how do we incorporate His love for others into our daily lives?**

***"God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,"***

1 Timothy 2:4-5



## **REACH**

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be intentional about sharing the love of God with someone who hasn't experienced it yet. Reach out in practical, caring ways and be ready to share your story about how God has loved you.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear how God opened up opportunities for you to share His love!**