

# JONAH

## GOD EMPOWERS THE RELUCTANT

Week three Jonah 3



**GOD DOES THE UNEXPECTED:**  
It's in God's nature to creatively surprise you.

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.

If you are a follower of Jesus, prepare yourself for the unexpected because He loves to surprise you! God is the Creator, and by nature He continues to manifest that creative genius in your life. He is molding and shaping your circumstances and scenarios and when His hands are "in the mix" you can be sure the unexpected is coming your way.

Now, there are two ways to approach this reality. You can grit your teeth with apprehension and set yourself in an attitude of reluctant submission. Or, you can enjoy the ride, knowing that you're safe in the loving arms of your Father. His thoughts towards you are continuously good and His plan for you, as Jeremiah said, is to give you a future and a hope.

As the Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." It's good advice, enjoy God and His plan for your life.



### 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 have a few people in your group share a story about how God did something that was totally unexpected and came as a complete surprise to you.



### 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 a surprise that God wants to use any of us. Sometimes we unnecessarily disqualify ourselves from being used by God because we feel like we have failed Him or are unworthy.

**What does the story of Jonah tell us about God's desire to use us and even our failures? When the adversary discourages us from serving God what Scriptures can we stand on that will overcome that discouragement and motivate us to service?**

***"Obedience to God is what opens the door for the unexpected."***

Derek Neider

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2. Jonah did not have a particularly exquisite oration, or a finely tuned sermon for the Ninevites. His message was surprisingly short but equally surprising in power.

**What does this tell us about where the power for ministry really comes from? Identify at least three examples in Scripture where God took something small and insignificant and used it mightily. What small thing do you have to bring to God for Him to use?**

***"We don't need worldly power to create God sized results. He receives."***

Derek Neider

3. Jonah was called to bring a message of mercy to his enemies, not an easy thing to do. He knew that from a human perspective there was no way that the Ninevites would turn to God. But He had learned not to evaluate things from a human perspective. God was involved and therefore something extraordinary was bound to happen.

**Do you see life like that? How can you grow in your belief that God is always on the brink of doing something amazing? What complication do you need to surrender to the Creator so He can turn it into a miracle?**

***"Great things happen when you surrender the complication to the Creator."***

Derek Neider

***"Do not despise the day of small beginnings."***

Zechariah 4:10



**REACH**

Considering what God revealed to you this week, how does Jonah's story encourage you to expect great things from God.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear how God surprised you with the unexpected!**