



Week 3: Second Chances

Scripture: Jonah 3

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

Jonah 3:1-2

Second time = *sheniy*

God is a God of _____.

Go = compound of 2 words, *quwm* and *yalak* = Go now, immediately

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” (vv3-4)

hapak = double meaning

- _____ and destroyed
- overturn and _____

Embedded in Jonah’s proclamation of judgement is the _____ of _____ for a people that are _____ to _____ their way of life.

The Ninevites _____ God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. (v5)

Start talking.

- What is the best “second chance” story you’ve ever heard, outside of the Bible?

Start thinking.

- What evidence do you see in this story that God is a God of second chances? What was Jonah’s response to God’s word? How do you know when God is speaking to you? Why do you think Jonah was quick to obey the second time God spoke? What went through his mind? How do you think he felt about going to Nineveh?
- What message did God tell Jonah to preach? (v4) How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah’s message? (v5) How do you account for this? What did the Ninevites believe God was going to do? How is God’s message similar or different today? Who is God wanting you to speak to about His grace?
- Repentance is changing our mind and actions to agree with God. From what did the Ninevites repent? (v8) What was the king’s main concern? (v9) What was God’s response? How does this story of God’s love and mercy compare to the New Testament message of His love and grace? What can we learn from God’s dealings with Nineveh?

Start sharing.

- Describe a time when God gave you a second chance. Why do you think God gave Jonah a second chance to go to Nineveh? How do you think Jonah felt about it the second time? Why did God give Nineveh a chance to repent? What can we learn about God through the story of Jonah?
- Why do you think the Ninevites were so quick to repent and believe God? What has God shown you that you need to do, but you have not yet done?
- In what situations would you consider fasting and/or giving up physical comfort, like the Ninevites, in order to seek God? Have you ever fasted and prayed for the salvation of another person or people group? Did you see any results? Did the Ninevites change God’s mind or did God give them the opportunity to change their minds?

Start praying. *Be bold and pray with power.*

I realize that just like Jonah, sometimes I don’t obey. Or my obedience is delayed at best. Thank you for second chances to do what you call me to do. God help me to follow you fully without hesitation. Help me to go where I am to sent, and to speak what I am to speak.

Start doing. *Commit to a step and live it out this week.*

- What will you do to obey God’s call this week to take His message to the lost? Who will you begin praying for? Ask God to reveal to you the message you are to share (be sure it includes His grace and mercy). Deal with any personal doubts or unbelief that would prevent you from doing your part or trusting God to do His part.