



Group Leader Guide & Discussion Questions

“Jonah” – Anti-Hero

July 13-14, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

This week, the campus pastors will each speak at their campuses. They continue the **Anti-Hero** series with the famous story of Jonah, found in the book of **Jonah** in the Old Testament. Jonah did a lot of things wrong in this short book, and his story doesn't have a pretty bow on the end. However, God still chose to use him despite all of this, as well as teach him, and all of us, a lesson of grace and love.

// Biblical Context

Ninevah

Ninevah was the capital city of the Assyrian empire located in modern day Iraq, near the city of Mosul, east of Israel.

Tarshish

Tarshish was a city as far west as was known to the Israelites in the time of Jonah, probably in southern Spain.

// Jonah

Jonah is only briefly mentioned in one other place in the Bible: **2 Kings 14:25**. He was a prophet during the reign of the Israelite king Jeroboam (ca. 786-746 B.C.). Jeroboam was able to restore a lot of the territory that opposing militaries, including Assyria, had taken from Israel. God used Jonah to tell Jeroboam how to do it. So, since Jonah had spent most of his career fighting against Israel's enemies, it makes sense why he would be reluctant to now do something which he figured would benefit them.

// Discussion Questions

1. What (or who) is your “Ninevah”? What has God made known to you that you should do, or who has God made known to you that you should love, but you refuse (because of fear, prejudice, anger, etc.)?
2. What is your “Tarshish”? What have you chosen to do instead?
3. Other than you, who pays the consequences for this in your life?
4. Do you ever find yourself angry when God shows grace to people you don't think deserve it?
5. What would it look like for you to take a step in the direction of doing what you know God wants for your life?