



# WOODLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Castaway: God's Relentless Pursuit of Redemption Part #3 – Moved by God's Mission of Mercy

### Small Group Discussion Guide on Jonah 3:1-10

#### Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Jonah 3:1-10 aligns with the core value of **Outreach** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. We believe that the Great Commission is at the heart of God's work and each of us as followers of Christ are called to take the message of the Gospel and share it with the world around us.

Jonah's journey of encountering the God of second chances in chapter three emphasizes God's relentless pursuit of redemption and His calling for His people to reach out to others—even those deemed unlikely or unworthy, like the Ninevites—with His message of mercy and salvation. This amazing story illustrates God's desire to extend His grace to all, challenging believers to actively participate in His mission by sharing His Word and love with others, reflecting the commitment of Woodland Heights Christian Church to reach the lost.

#### Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

##### "Observing God's Word"

Imagine a lifeguard on a stormy beach, hearing a faint cry for help from someone caught in a rip tide. Despite the danger, the lifeguard dives in, driven by the urgency of the call. In Jonah 3, God's call to Jonah is like that cry—urgent and undeniable. As you read this chapter, notice how Jonah hears God's voice a second time and how the Ninevites respond to the warning, like swimmers grasping a lifeline in their time of great need.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Jonah 3:1-10 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Jonah is given a second chance to share God's message with the people He is called to reach.

##### Core Questions

- What do you notice about Jonah's words and actions in this story? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?
- What is the main lesson or lessons that you learn about the character of God from Jonah 3?

## Section #2 – EXPLORE

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### “Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack Jonah journey with questions that connect the sermon’s insights to our lives. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

**Quote** – “God’s call doesn’t depend on your perfection; it rests on His persistence.” – **D.L. Moody**

- What does the quote from D.L. Moody teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

### **God’s Second Chance (Jonah 3:1-2)**

Jonah prays, “*Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time...*” (Jonah 3:1).

The sermon highlights God as the "God of Second Chances" as discovered in the message of Jonah 3:1-2.

- How does God’s recommissioning of Jonah after his rebellion encourage you in your own walk with God?
- Have you ever experienced a moment where God gave you a second chance to follow His call?
- In what ways, does Jonah 3:1-2 encourage you as a Christian today?

### **Obedience and Impact (Jonah 3:3-5)**

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (Jonah 3:4). Jonah’s simple, obedient proclamation led to a city-wide restoration of salvation and deliverance.

- What does this teach us about the power of God’s Word when we faithfully share it?
- How can you speak God’s truth boldly in your own life, even if you feel inadequate?
- How does the quote from A.W. Tozer apply to these verses?

**Quote** – “God doesn’t need perfect messengers; He needs obedient ones.” – **A.W. Tozer**

### **Repentance and Mercy (Jonah 3:6-10)**

The king of Ninevah declared, “...Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” (Jonah 3:8-9) The Ninevites, including their king, responded with humility and repentance, and God relented from judgment.

- What does this reveal about the relationship between repentance and God’s mercy?
- How can we cultivate a heart of repentance in our daily lives?

## Section #3 – EMBRACE

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### “Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Jonah 3:1-10.

- **Identify Your Nineveh:** Think of a person, place, or situation God might be calling you to reach with His message of mercy. It could be a difficult coworker, a struggling family member, or a community need. Write down one specific step you can take this week to respond to God’s call in that area.
- **Practice Repentance:** Like the Ninevites, take time to examine your heart. Is there an area of your life where you need to turn from sin and seek God’s mercy? Spend a moment in prayer, asking God to reveal and help you repent of anything holding you back from His mission.
- **Share God’s Word:** Jonah’s obedience sparked a revival. Commit to sharing a Bible verse, a testimony, or an encouraging word with someone this week. Discuss with the group how you can encourage each other to be bold in sharing God’s truth.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize the sermon’s memory verse, Matthew 5:7 (ESV): “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Reflect on how showing mercy to others reflects God’s heart and invites His mercy into your life. Share with the group how this verse challenges or inspires you.

### Closing Challenge

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As a group, pray for one another to hear and respond to God’s call, just as Jonah did. Encourage each member to take at least one of the action steps above and follow up next week to share how God worked through their obedience. Consider participating in a Sunday School class or inviting someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.