

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

Jonah... the second chance

(part IV of the 'Jonah' series – 6/10/12)

Big Idea...

In chapter 2, Jonah gets a firsthand seat to see God's mercy and grace. God not only gives Jonah grace and mercy in coming to him a second time to be used (3:1), but He also gives those living in Nineveh another chance (3:10) when they repented of their sinful ways. This gives a wonderful picture of a God who (1) does not hold grudges against past sin, (2) does not make deals to accommodate our interests or allow us to remain comfortable, and a God who (3) refuses to give up on us. Furthermore, we see that God is a judge, but He is (4) merciful. God grace is not just for some, but His (5) grace is available to all and can reach even the least likely.

Discussion Questions...

1. For many, believing that God not only forgives sin, but forgets about our sin is hard to grasp. Why is it so difficult to believe that God does not hold grudges against us for past sins? How might your relationship with God change/mature if you believed this to be true of God?
2. When God calls us to live on mission He doesn't promise us an easy or comfortable life. Why do we often settle for what's easy and comfortable rather than embracing the purposes and plans that God has for us. How might you finish the following sentence – "**In my life, I desperately want to see God _____!**"
3. Has there ever been a time where you felt like God gave up on you? If yes – when? What was happening that led you to believe that God had given up on you? It's clear from what we've learned in Jonah that regardless of our sin, God does not give up on us. Does knowing this about God stir in you a desire to sin even more (do your own thing), or does it create in you a desire to know and love the One who will never leave you, nor forsake you?
4. Nineveh's crimes against God and humanity were horrific. Jonah's crimes may have looked different than those of the Ninevites, but he was just as rebellious. God granted both mercy! How is this fair – meaning, neither Jonah or the Ninevites get what they deserved. If God granted mercy, then where is the justice in that? How can God be both Just and Merciful? How is what Jesus accomplished on the cross a picture of the justice of God and mercy of God intersecting?
5. In light of who God is, and all that He has graciously given to us, think through some practical ways in which you might...
 - **begin doing for others what God has done for you –**
 - Is there anyone that you've been holding a grudge against that you just need to forgive and move forward?
 - Is there anyone that has hurt you, disappointed you, or sinned against you that you have given up on? How might you give that person a second chance?
 - **begin stewarding the mission & message that God has entrusted to you –**
 - Is there something that God has told you that He wants you to do, or say that up to this point have not done? Share what it is that you sense God wanting you to do or say with your Community Group – ask them to pray for you & then hold you accountable to doing it.
 - **begin demonstrating a gratitude that is Godward**
 - what are some practical ways in which you might begin to thank God for all He has done and is doing with you?

Announcements...

- **Testimonies** – on [Sunday, June 24th](#) during the GENESIS Worship gatherings, you will have the opportunity to share your testimony of 'This is our God.' Be praying as to what God would have you share at this gathering. It will be a powerful time of celebrating together as a community who God is an what He is doing in our lives and the life of our community. Any questions, please contact the Elders at elders@genesisthejourney.com.