

Sounds Week 2 Discussion Guide

Love Radius

This week's study through the book of Jonah explores God's mercy toward the most wicked of nations and His relentless pursuit of both rebellious prophets and repentant enemies. From Jonah's nationalistic pride and personal disobedience to Nineveh's remarkable humility and repentance, the contrast is sharp and deeply personal. We are challenged not only to obey God's calling but to evaluate the width of our own love radius. Who are we willing to forgive? Who do we hope receives mercy? Through storms, fish, worms, and wind, God is forming a heart in His people that mirrors His own.

Discussion Questions

1. **Why did Jonah flee from God's call to go to Nineveh? (Jonah 1:3)**
 - Jonah fled because he didn't want to see Nineveh—the brutal, enemy nation—receive God's mercy. He knew God was compassionate and feared He would forgive them if they repented.
 - Is there anyone you resist reaching out to or praying for because you don't believe they deserve God's mercy?
2. **How does God use storms, fish, and even worms in Jonah's story? (Jonah 1–4)**
 - God uses these elements to discipline, rescue, and expose Jonah's heart. Each is an act of grace meant to restore Jonah, not destroy him.
 - Can you think of a time when God used a hard situation in your life to bring you closer to Him?
3. **What does Nineveh's response to Jonah's message teach us about true repentance? (Jonah 3:5–10)**
 - Nineveh responded immediately, humbly, and publicly. The king even issued a national fast and put on sackcloth. Their repentance moved God's heart.
 - What does genuine repentance look like in your own life? Is there any area you need to respond more humbly?
4. **Why was Jonah angry when God showed mercy to Nineveh? (Jonah 4:1–4)**
 - Jonah resented God's grace toward others. He believed they deserved judgment—not compassion. His heart was proud and narrow.
 - Have you ever struggled with feeling resentful when someone else received forgiveness or blessing?
5. **What does the ending of Jonah reveal about God's heart—and Jonah's? (Jonah 4:10–11)**
 - God's heart is wide and compassionate—even for a violent, pagan city. Jonah, by contrast, only cared about himself and his comfort.
 - How wide is your love radius? Who is hard for you to love or show grace to right now?

Prayer Prompts

- Thank God for His patience and mercy in your own life—even in seasons of rebellion or bitterness.
- Ask God to expand your heart for others, especially those who are difficult for you to love.
- Pray for the courage to repent fully and obey immediately—no matter how uncomfortable the calling.