

The Book of Jonah

Leader Overview

Welcome

Many of us grew up with the story of Jonah and the whale, but this story is about so much more than a man being swallowed by a great fish. Prepare to be challenged by the life of Jonah and God's response to him and the people of Nineveh!

Series Overview

Week 1: Jump into the first session on the Book of Jonah with a discussion on obedience and loving the unlovable people in our lives.

Week 2: Explore God's grace in providing "divine interruptions" in our lives to get us back on track.

Week 3: Discover the potential dangers of disobedience. How are other people impacted when our lives don't line up with what we say we believe?

Week 4: Determine the difference between true and counterfeit repentance.

Week 5: Witness "heartless obedience" in Jonah's actions and God's faithfulness in spite of him.

Week 6: Be inspired by true repentance and challenged with an invitation to do the same.

Week 7: Uncover the roots of bitterness that keep you from loving others the way that God does.

Week 8: Let Jonah's mixed up priorities shine a light into areas of our hearts that need to be re-examined.

Discipleship Insights

- As with all well-known Bible stories, the greatest enemy to fresh insight is *what we think we already know*. Lead your group through a brainstorm at the beginning of week one to get all of the assumptions and expectations on the table. Record everyone's thoughts and refer to them as you move through the study to see what changes and what is reinforced.
- The study provides many opportunities for confession and repentance. If your group has a mix of men and women, it may be helpful to split up by gender for the "Fully Own" portion of the discussion each week. This small tweak may make a big

difference for your group members and encourage them to share honestly and openly.

- **Found People Find People** is a Mark of Ownership at Central, and the book of Jonah reminds us of how important it is to cultivate our hearts for the lost. As you lead your group through this series, pray for guidance on how to challenge your group members to better live out this Mark of Ownership. At the conclusion of your study, consider:
 - Opening up your LG to new members, if you haven't already done so.
 - Getting involved in the [Global Ministry](#) as a Life Group.
 - Hosting a fellowship night and challenging your LG members to each bring one person who does not yet have a relationship with Jesus.