



## TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

4-10 August 2019 | Jonah 1-4

**The Message.** God is “gracious ... and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Jonah 4:2).

**Context.** Jonah ministered during the reign of Jeroboam II in the Northern Kingdom (Israel). The Bible records that his prophecy came to pass in 2 Kings 14:23-25. In the current book, God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh (the capital of Assyria) to proclaim God’s judgment over the sinful city. Jonah ran away from his call because he did not want Ninevites to repent and avoid God’s judgment. The reason for this was probably because of their brutality, violence, & wickedness and Israel’s bitter history with them (2 Kings 14:23–28). Watch the Bible’s project video [here](#).

### Observation & Meaning

1. Describe how does Jonah strongly hate to see the Ninevites repent.
  - a. 1:3 : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. 1:5 : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. 1:12 : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. 3:4 : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. 4:1-3 : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. 4:9 : \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why does Jonah flee to Tarshish instead of just staying where he is?
3. Why does Jonah ask people to throw him into the sea, instead of just repenting?
4. Compare Jonah’s disobedience in 1:3, his prayer in 2:1-10, and his act in 3:4 and 4:1-2. Does Jonah come to sincere repentance? Why or why not?
5. Observe 3:10-4:3. Does Jonah understand God’s characters correctly? What is the root cause of Jonah’s rejection of God’s call?
6. Observe how does God respond when Jonah:
  - a. runs away from God (1:4) : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. thrown into the sea (1:17) : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. repents (2:10) : \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. is angry to God (4:4-11) : \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Why God does not just commission other prophet to Nineveh?

## Application

8. ECF. How do we identify ourselves with Jonah?
  - a. What do we do when we disagree with God?
  - b. How do we feel when God is gracious to a wicked person?
9. How do we identify ourselves with the Ninevites?
10. Christ-Centeredness. How does this story point us to Christ (Mt. 12:38-41)?
11. How does this story point us to our water baptism?
12. What does this story show us about how God is dealing with us?
13. How should we respond to this truth?

## Insight

Nineveh & Sodom. Jonah's Nineveh is thematically connected to Sodom, another biblical city of evil (Gen 18-19). God tells Abraham that the outcry against Sodom is such that he "must go down" to investigate (Gen 18:21). Similarly, God sends Jonah to Nineveh, "the great city," telling him that its evil "has come up" before him (Jonah 1:2). Gen 19:25 describes God's destruction of Sodom using a term usually translated as "overthrow," the same term Jonah uses in his prophetic preaching to Nineveh (Jonah 3:4). (Bolin).

Tarshish. ... Tarshish ... was thought to be towards the end of the earth, and is always associated with ships in the Bible. Jonah wanted to go as far as he could to escape God's presence, but this was a futile attempt. ... In heading for Tarshish, Jonah intended to get as far away from Nineveh and the calling of God to go there as he possibly could. (Guzik).

## Resources

Bolin, Thomas M. "Nineveh as Sin City." *Bible Odyssey*.  
<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/places/related-articles/nineveh-as-sin-city>  
(accessed on Jul 30, 2019)

Guzik, David. *Jonah*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.