

Jonah

- + The book of Jonah can be divided into 2 parts; Before Repentance and After Repentance. We will only focus our study on Chapters 3 & 4, and talk quickly about 1 & 2 as background.
- + Jonah was God's messenger but his will overpowered him and hindered him from following the will of God. God asks him to go to Nineveh to ask the people to repent but he refuses to carry God's message of mercy to these people.
- + God in His Love and Mercy did not wish for Jonah to perish, so He prepared a whale to swallow Jonah and carry him to Nineveh.
- + Once Jonah repented, God allowed him to resume his mission.

Read Chapters 3&4 in class and explain the following:

- + Chapter 3: Jonah walks through Nineveh warning people to turn from their evil ways and repent, or the city will perish in 40 days. The king hears the message and asks his people/animals to repent and sit in ashes and put on sack clothes and ask God for forgiveness. And God relents from His anger and forgives the people of Nineveh.
- + Chapter 4: Jonah's upset because of God's mercy and love. God again in His Love, tries to explain to Jonah through His nature how He cares for the people He labored to create and support.

Points to consider:

- + God's amazing Love for Jonah: He didn't want Jonah to perish in his obstinate mind. He loved him and He wanted him back. He might have chastised him, but as a loving father see Rev. 3:19.
- + God amazing Love for Nineveh: He didn't want 120,000 people to perish in their evil ways. He loved them and asked His messenger to warn them.
- + God accepts sincere repentance: He accepted Jonah's repentance. He also accepted Nineveh's sincere repentance.
- + Check Jonah 4:2 "...for I know that You are a gracious...". This verse best describes God's mercy and loving kindness towards His creation.
- + God usually uses His nature to fulfill His work. In this story He use a whale, and a plant.

Memorization verse: Jonah 4:2 "...for I know that You are a gracious..."