

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- **Giving Away My Faith**

**"I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes."**

- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

**Monday**

Begin your time in prayer. Ask God to give you insight into His Word that will deepen your compassion for people who do not yet know Christ.

Read Jonah 3. This chapter records Jonah's response to God's second call for him to go to Nineveh and the Ninevites response to Jonah's message.

The last place Jonah wanted to go was the city of Nineveh, and he had tried everything in his power to run from God's call. Read Jonah 3:1-2 again. What command does God give to Jonah?

What message is Jonah instructed to take to the people?

Jonah is probably still feeling a substantial amount of fear as he starts off on the journey toward Nineveh. After all, the people of Nineveh, Assyrians, are known for their violence and cruelty toward enemies.

How did Jonah respond to God's call? What message did Jonah proclaim?

In chapter 3, Jonah plays a small but significant role. He hears God's call and responds by going to Nineveh to preach God's message. However small his actions were, God used Jonah to start a movement of change in Nineveh. God allowed Jonah to be used in His plans even when he was initially unwilling.

Spend a few moments asking God to search your heart.

Do you identify more with the fleeing fearful Jonah in chapter one or the obedient Jonah in chapter 3? Why?

Close your time in prayer. Ask God to fill you with courage, making you someone who does not fear man, but is obedient to God in whatever task He calls you to.

**Tuesday**

Begin your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand His Word and apply it to your life.

Read Jonah 3. How does verse 3 describe Nineveh?

Nineveh was a city surrounded by an inner and outer wall. The inner wall was huge (50 ft. wide, 100 ft. high, approx. 8 miles in circumference) and encompassed the main urban center. The outer wall included the outlying villages. It probably took Jonah three days to travel the extent of the main city and the "suburbs". (\*information taken from [Bible Knowledge Commentary](#), ed. Walvoord & Zuck, 1983.)

What does verse 5 tell us about the response of the Ninevites? What actions did they take to demonstrate their belief?

Fasting and putting on sackcloth (a coarse cloth) was a common practice as an outward symbol of inward contrition. It was meant to show humility and repentance by giving up comforts because of grief over sin. (Other scriptural examples of fasting: I Samuel 7:6; Nehemiah 1:3-4. Wearing sackcloth: I Kings 21:25-28; Lamentations 2:10.)

What actions did the king decree that all people should take?

The people of Nineveh were ready for the Word of the Lord that was proclaimed by Jonah. They heard and quickly responded to the belief that they deserved punishment from God because of their evil ways.

Sit in silence for a few moments and allow God to search your heart. How open do you sense yourself to be regarding God's correction?

To what areas of your heart and life is God prompting you to pay attention and allow Him to change?

Express to God your need for Him and His change in your life. Ask Him to help you stay attentive to His voice. Thank Him for His mercy in your life.

### **Wednesday**

Spend a few moments thinking on the miracles that have taken place so far in Jonah: God created a huge storm to divert Noah's running away and He caused a large fish to swallow Jonah to transport him alive back to dry land! Ask God to enlarge your understanding of who He is, the all-powerful King over ALL creation.

Read Jonah 3. Reread Jonah 1:1 and 3:1. Jonah received a call from God not once but twice. God shows mercy on Jonah by coming to him a second time.

God does not always call on his people twice. Read Numbers 20:7-12. How does God respond to Moses' disobedience to his call?

What is recorded of Jonah's message does not directly say that God will be involved in Nineveh's being overturned, yet the Ninevites understand that it was God in whom they must put their trust for mercy as demonstrated in verse 5.

Read the king's decree in verse 7-9. The King calls the Ninevites to call urgently on God and God mercifully listened. In verse 9, the king speaks of God's fierce anger. What was God's anger directed at?

Why did God choose to relent and have compassion on the people of Nineveh?

Just as God showed Jonah mercy in giving him a second chance, He shows the people of Nineveh mercy when they turned from their evil ways. This chapter shows us the great extent of God's mercy towards people's sinful ways.

Close your time today by reflecting on God's mercy in your own life. How have you seen God show His mercy to you, think of as many specific instances as you can:

Pray, thanking God for His infinite mercy towards you.

### **Thursday**

Begin your time in prayer. Ask God to make you sensitive to His promptings today.

Read Jonah 1:1-2 and 3:1-2. The Lord's call to Jonah encompassed three imperatives: arise, go and proclaim. God called Jonah to a specific people at a specific time with a specific message.

All believers have been given a call just as Jonah had. Throughout the New Testament, the call to share the gospel, the good news of Jesus, is given to us.

Look up the following verses and next to each verse note how it applies to our call as believers to arise, go and proclaim.

Matthew 24:14:

Acts 20:24:

Romans 1:16:

Romans 15:20:

2 Corinthians 2:14-17:

Ephesians 6:19-20:

Philippians 1:27:

1 Thessalonians 2:8:

Spend a few moments in prayer, asking God to speak to you about His call to share the Gospel. Who are the specific people to whom He is calling you? What need do you see in the lives of these people for God?

Close your time by praying for the people whom God has called you to share with. Ask God to give you opportunities to interact with them and the faithfulness to continue building these relationships.

### **Friday**

Begin your time praying for the people whom you desire to see come to Christ.

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

Part of being prepared to give an answer for the hope we have is being aware of how God has worked in our own lives. In all relationships with people, we have opportunities to talk about joys and disappointments as we live life together. God has orchestrated your life and all of its circumstances to ultimately be a testimony of His grace and mercy. Answer the following questions to help you "notice" God's work in your life:

What talents or passions has God given you?

How have you seen God give you opportunity to use these talents and passions in a way that you would not have been able to orchestrate?

What have been some high points in your life? How was God involved in bringing you to that moment?

What have been some low points? How did you see God work through your disappointment or pain?

When have you felt fearful? How did God carry you through that time?

When has your life felt out of control? How did God help bring balance?

Think of a big mistake you made or sin that you gave into? How did God pull you out of this?

When have you felt content? How did God provide for those moments of contentment?

Close your time in prayer. Ask God to use your life as a message of God's grace and mercy in the lives of your friends and family who do not yet know Christ.