

# Loving Those Neighbors

## Jonah 3-4

*Focus: Challenging us to embrace God's grace and to extend it to leaders, to the nations, and to those we deem most undeserving*

### RESOURCES:

Here is a helpful article on the book of Jonah:

<http://www.directionjournal.org/11/2/jonah-deliverance-and-sovereignty-of-god.html#Note4>



### 2016 Annual Priority:

*To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.*

### Discussion:

- Read Jonah chapters 3-4 aloud. Why do you think God extended His word to Jonah a second time? What did Jonah do in chapter 2 to position himself to receive God's word?
- In 3.2-5, what impresses you most about the Ninevites response to Jonah's message? Read Matt. 12.38-42. In what way was Jonah a sign to the Ninevites? In what way is Christ a greater sign for those who would believe today?
- Why were the Ninevites the object of God's concern? Who would be like "modern day Ninevites" today? What is the message of the book of Jonah concerning modern day missions work?
- In 3.6-9 the great king of Nineveh submits to the truth of the words of God in repentance. Is this hard for you to envision of leaders in our day? Is there a leader in your life that you think God wants you to pray for or speak to about God's grace?
- In 4.1-3, why do you think Jonah is so upset? Why did he obey in ch. 3 and then get so upset now? Why didn't God's grace towards him affect his heart towards the Ninevites?
- What is the point God is trying to get Jonah to admit in vv. 6-8? How does the situation with the plant parallel the situation with Nineveh?
- In vv. 10 & 11, is God condemning Jonah's compassion for the plant? What is the central thing that God wants to change about Jonah's heart?
- In what way are you most like Jonah? What is the change that God is calling you to make?