



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: God's Amazing Grace**

**Date: May 31, 2026**

**Scripture Text: Jonah 3**

**Notes:**

Back in Jonah 1 God calls Jonah to deliver a message against the great city of Ninevah. Their wickedness had not gone unnoticed by God. Instead of going east to Ninevah, Jonah goes the opposite way in an attempt to escape God. God intervenes and Jonah finds himself in the belly of a great fish. He spends three days and nights praying to God. This is recorded in Jonah 2. He repents and God commands the fish to vomit Jonah up onto dry land. Jonah experienced God's mercy and grace firsthand. He responds with obedience and continues on to Ninevah. Once he arrives, he delivers God's message of condemnation, and the inhabitants respond with a great revival. One of the greatest religious awakenings in history. Let's look at 3 essentials needed for a great awakening...

**I. The Obedience of Saints (Jonah 3:1-4)**

God gave Jonah a second chance. As hard as it might seem at times, it is a blessing to be included in God's work. God had a message for Ninevah and chose Jonah to deliver it. Jonah had repented and was available for God to use however He wanted. He arrives in the great city and cries out "Yet forty days and Ninevah will be overthrown". Jonah was a good example of one of God's saints who had stumbled and pursued his own way, but God was still able to use him in a mighty way.

- Who are other examples of those in the Bible who have stumbled, repented and God still used them for His work.
- What are examples today of the work of God?
- Describe a blessing you've received by being part of God's work.
- What do you think of the statement: "awakening won't come to the lost until revival comes to the saved"?
- How prepared are you for God to use if He chooses for our nation to go through another 'great awakening'?



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### II. The Repentance of the Sinners (Jonah 3:5-10a)

The people of Ninevah believed in God as a result of Jonah's obedience to deliver the message God had given him. FAITHFULNESS is up to us; FRUITFULNESS is up to God. The people's response impacted their beliefs and behavior. Repentance includes change. The literal definition of repent is to 'change direction'. In this context it is to turn from sinful behavior to God.

- Repentance is not remorse or regret, but resolve (not to sin), and reform (a change of heart) to be more godly ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)), and to trust God for the work He has done and will do in us ([Phil. 1:6](#)). How did the Ninevite's actions demonstrate their repentance?
- The Ninevites wore sackcloth and fasted to show God they had repented of their evil ways and believed in Him. What are ways we can demonstrate our repentance today?
- Why is repentance so important to be an effective follower of Jesus?
- What are examples of things you have 'repented' of as you've grown as a Christian? How are you more like Christ as a result?

### III. The Forgiveness of God (Jonah 3:10)

As a result of the Ninevites repentance, God *relented* and did not destroy Ninevah. God judges sinful behavior and blesses godly behavior. [Jer. 18:7-8](#) makes clear, prophetic pronouncements of judgment were not absolute, but conditional: "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it."

- The term 'overthrown' in v. 4 (Hb haphak) has a secondary meaning of "changed" which is not the sense Jonah meant, but ironically that is how the word of prophecy was actually fulfilled. Nineveh was not destroyed but was instead changed.
- How does God's actions in v.10 help us understand His character?
- How would you define God's 'grace' and 'mercy'?
- Describe a time when you experienced God's grace and mercy.
  - How did you know God better as a result?

George Whitefield, a central figure in the 18th-century Great Awakening, believed that the gospel must be proclaimed boldly, that true conversion is transformative, and that revival is a call to constant evangelism.

*"True conversion means turning not only from sin but also from depending on self-made righteousness."*

*"Press forward. Do not stop, do not linger in your journey, but strive for the mark set before you."*

*"Study to know Him more and more, for the more you know, the more you will love Him."*