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## Sermon Discussion Guide

### The City and the Prophet - Tim

09/25/22

#### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- New Groups: What made you interested in joining a small group?
- We will be going through Jonah this Fall: What do you hope to learn about this book this quarter?
- What comes to mind when you think of the book of Jonah?

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read: Jonah 1:1-3 and Nahum 3:1 and 3:19**
- What do we learn about Ninevah from this scripture?
- What do we learn about Jonah from this scripture?
- What does it mean in verse 2 when God says this about Nineveh? "because its wickedness has come up before me"?
- Watch the bible project video - share what stood out to you.
  - [Overview: Jonah](#)

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- What does this teach us about what God thinks about cities that or people that are out of alignment with them?
- Why do you think that Jonah ran away from God's instructions?
- Why is the Jonah passage good news for us and our world?



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#### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Have you experienced a time when God called you to do something you didn't want to do? How did that play out?
- What character do you relate to the most in Jonah (Nineveh, Jonah, or the Author)?
- What do you think God might want to teach you as we go through this book?
- Have you experienced a time when religion is more focused on success to the point of ignoring sin or those who need Jesus? Share what that was like.

#### Time of Prayer