



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Miracle of Nineveh - Tim Knipp

Oct 16, 2022

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.
- What is the largest, most cosmopolitan city you have ever visited or lived in? What was it like?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read Jonah 3:1 - 10**
- List everything we know about Nineveh. Try to describe it as much as you are able.
- What was the result of Jonah's obedience?
- What would it have meant to the people of Nineveh that everyone "gave up their violence"? What would the results of that have been?
- If all you knew about God came from chapter 3 of Jonah, what would you say about God? What do we learn about God, what he does, and who he is, from this chapter?
- What are all the ways that the Miracle of Nineveh is emphasized in this chapter? In other words, how does the author tell the story to draw our attention to the power of God's message and the unexpected response to it? (i.e. the shortness of Jonah's message, the totality of the repentance, etc.)

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.



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- Read vs 10 again. God seems to have changed his mind about the action he had planned to take against Nineveh. What caused this change of plan? What does this say about how God relates to his people?
 - How does God's heart for Nineveh include both justice and mercy?
- Talk about a time you have seen God radically change a person or group of people's lives.
- What people or organizations do you know that are committed to bringing the message of Jesus or enacting the way of Jesus in complex urban societies? Where are they going about their work? What does it look like?

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.
- Where do you need to be reminded of the inherent life-changing power of the message of God?
 - What people or places do you want to hold in prayer this week for God's message to break into?
- God showed great concern for the city and people of Nineveh. Does your concern for your city/neighbors look more like God or more like Jonah?
- How might God's heart for Nineveh inspire you to care for your neighbors and for Bellingham/Whatcom/Skagit as a whole?
- Where are places you can specifically share the mercy and invitation of God to Bellingham/Whatcom/Skagit?

Time of Prayer