

JONAH: DOING GOD'S WORK

Jonah 3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does it mean to repent?
- In your opinion, what makes it difficult for you to tell others about God and the good news of salvation?

Romans 3:23 declares that each and every one of us is sinful and has failed to live up to God's glorious standard. This truth can leave us feeling defeated or useless, but turning to the story of Jonah can give us hope. In Jonah 3, we see that God is a God of second chances. Though we all sin and fall short, God's mercy is for anyone and everyone who repents. Studying how God works through Jonah and how he forgives the repentant Ninevites gives us the opportunity to grow deeper in our understanding of God's character, his limitless love, and the mission to which he calls each of us.

Listen: [*Jonah: Doing God's Work*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Can you identify any other examples of people who were “crooked sticks” that God used to make a positive impact for his kingdom or to bring others to him? Consider examples from the Bible, from history, and from your life. Why do you consider these people “crooked sticks”? How did God use them to witness?
- Have you ever seen God work despite a person's attitude or active resistance or can you think of any other biblical examples of this? What does it teach you about God's character?
- In segment 3, host Darrell Delaney refers to God's “lovingkindness.” This is a reference to the Hebrew word *hesed*, a word whose meaning is complex and not concisely translated into English. It is commonly translated as “loving kindness,” “steadfast love,” “unfailing love,” or more simply as “love,” “kindness,” “mercy,” or “loyalty.” *Hesed* is found in passages like [Exodus 34:6-7](#), [Psalm 36:5-10](#), [Psalm 86](#), [Psalm 136](#), [Isaiah 54:7-8](#), and so many, many more. According to [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance](#) the word *hesed* appears 251 times in 241 verses of the Old Testament. Read 2-3 of the above passages that talk about God's *hesed*. What do these verses help you better understand about God's character? What do these verses reveal to you about the breadth of God's love for Jonah, for the Ninevites, for you, or for those you consider evil and sinful in today's world?
- Toward the end of segment 3, host Scott Hoezee says “What we need to do is remain open to God's surprises. He is a surprising God.” Are you open to God's surprises? Why or why not? What could you do to help develop an openness to being surprised by God?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 12:38-45**
- **Isaiah 49:6**
- **Genesis 12:1-3**
- **Jeremiah 31:33-34**
- **1 Samuel 16:7**
- **Revelation 7:9-10**

Conclusion

Scott and Darrell identify three takeaways we can apply to our lives from our study of [Jonah 3](#):

- “Don’t write yourself off. God can use you to witness.”
- “Don’t write other people off because God may be working in their hearts and is just waiting for you to talk to them.”
- “Don’t limit the love of God.”

Which one of these takeaways do you think is most challenging for you? What about the church as a whole? Pray about this. Close your prayer by giving thanks for God’s *hesed*, his forgiveness, and his salvation.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jonah-doing-gods-work>

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