

MERCY THERE WAS GREAT

I have good news. Our God is full of mercy. His word tells us his mercies are new every morning. Perhaps that's why the book of Jonah is challenging to read. God is full of mercy and Jonah seemed to struggle with this. God sent Jonah to wicked Nineveh and he chose to go the opposite direction. Through some "fishy" circumstances Jonah made his way to the city of Nineveh and proclaimed they would be "overthrown". The king of this large, gentile city and its people mourned over their sin, repented, fasted and called upon the Lord. Great news, right?! Jonah didn't think so. He was upset by God showing mercy to the great city - so upset he said he'd rather die?! What a stark contrast to Jesus. Jonah wanted to die because the wicked have repented. Jesus died so that those who repent can have life. What a merciful and loving savior we have!

Jonah 1-4; Matthew 11

2 Kings 13-14; 2 Chronicles 25; Psalm 53; Matthew 12

Amos 1-3; Matthew 13

Amos 4-6; Psalm 55; Matthew 14

Amos 7-9; Matthew 15

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. When have you tried to run from God and what was God's response?
2. When have you seen or experienced God's mercy?
3. What opportunities has God given you to sow his word?
4. Would you say your heart is good soil right now? And how do you know what good soil is?
5. How will you prepare and train your mouth to sing praises instead of spewing poison? What does it have to do with the heart?

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4,5) That is good news!