

LESSON 13—May 30, 2021

Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:
 Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant
Unit III: Courageous Prophets of Change

Lesson Titles:
Changing for the Better
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
Jonah: Fiery Harbinger of Doom
 (Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

Devotional Reading:
 Jonah 2

Background Scriptures:
 Jonah 3

Print Passages:
 Jonah 3:1-10

Key Verse(s):

God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God *repented* of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. (Jonah 3:10, KJV)

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“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he *relented* and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. (Jonah 3:10, NIV)

► **Questions to Consider:**

1. What was Jonah's message to the Ninevites?
2. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Jonah's message?
3. What did God do when He saw how the Ninevites turned from their evil ways?

► **Lesson Context:**

- Jonah was called by God to go to Nineveh and cry out against its wickedness (see Jonah 1:2).
- God told Jonah to go and preach to a nation of people he **hated** (see Jonah 4:1-11).
- Rather than obey what God had called him to do, Jonah resisted God's assignment and attempted to flee to Tarshish (see Jonah 1:3).
- The clear message of the book of Jonah is God's incredible **love** for the world, His desire for all people to turn from their sin, and His readiness to forgive all who genuinely do so.

► **Lesson Aims:**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Survey Nineveh's response to Jonah's message.
- Sense how the people of Nineveh felt after hearing Jonah's message.
- Engage in repentance and right behavior after hearing God's warning.

► **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**

1. “Another Chance” **Obedience** (Jonah 3:1-4)

Key Point 1: God gives Jonah a **second** chance.

Key Point 2: Jonah’s message was simple and direct. He cried out in a loud voice that in forty days this city shall be overthrown.

2. Wholesale **Repentance** (Jonah 3:5-9)

Key Point 1: The people of Nineveh heard Jonah’s message with conviction. They believed God, and **repented**.

Key Point 2: God’s Word delivered through Jonah brought about a change in the lives of the people of Nineveh.

3. Wholesale **Forgiveness** (Jonah 3:10)

Key Point 1: **God** was moved by the people’s response to His Word through Jonah.

Key Point 2: God was moved with compassion for the people of Nineveh and decided not to execute judgments.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- Jonah learned that God cares for the people we tend to hate, overlook, or deem unworthy of His grace and mercy.
- This lesson illustrates that God extends grace and mercy to both saints and sinners, believers and unbelievers.
- Jonah’s story also emphasizes God’s loving desire that all people would repent rather than endure the wrath of God’s punishment for sin.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week’s Faith Pathway student book.)

1. In what way was Jonah’s recommissioning an act of grace?

2. What is the evidence that an act of repentance is internal and not external?

3. What are some hindrances that prevent people from responding quickly to God’s Word?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
