

Second Chances

Getting To Know Each Other

- Have you ever been caught in a terrible storm when you were driving? Describe it.

Into the Bible

Read Jonah 1:1-17

- As a prophet, how would Jonah feel when God spoke to him? Why did he feel so against God's call to go to Nineveh? (Note: Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the ruthless empire which threatened and eventually conquered Israel)
- Why did Jonah choose Tarshish as a location to flee to?
- When the sailors told Jonah about the horrible storm, why did he react the way he did?
- In verse 9, how was Jonah faith?
- What decision had Jonah made, rather than go to Nineveh? See verse 12
- In verse 13, what can we learn from the sailors' character?
- In verse 17, how does God give Jonah a second chance?
- Application: Have you ever ran away from God's direction in your life?

Read Jonah 2:1-2, 7, 10

- Why would God command the fish to swallow Jonah?
- What was Jonah's first response to being in that situation?
- How did God answer his prayer?
- How is God showing Jonah grace by not allowing him to go to Tarshish?
- Application: When have you been in a situation beyond your control?
- Application: Do you try to solve the problem on your own or do you ask God?

Read Jonah 3:1-10

- In verse 1, how is God's grace seen in Jonah's life? How did Jonah respond?
- How did the Ninevites respond?
- How did God respond? Verse 10
- Application: When has God given you a second chance?

Read Jonah 4:1-11

- Why was Jonah displeased with God? Knowing this, what was the reason Jonah ran and did not want to preach to the Ninevites? Explain verse 3.
- In verse 4, God asked if Jonah had a right to be angry. Have you ever been angry with God when he answered a different way than you hoped for?
- In verse 5-8, explain why God created the vine and then let it die? What lesson is God trying to teach Jonah?
- Application: Have you ever been disappointed that God had blessed others?
- Application: What can we learn about God's love for the world? What is Jonah's biggest problem? Was it fear to go to a scary place or prejudice against the Ninevites?