

FUSION Q's...Jonah Part 3:

Second Chances

Discussion Theme: Repentance

1. Theme Question for discussion...

- ☆ How do you respond when you know you did something wrong?

2. Read Jonah 3

3. Discussing the text

Leader's Heads up: throughout the Bible (pretty much in every story and book) we find that our God is a God of second chances. It's part of who he is - he is gracious - something we find out next week from another confession about God's Character from Jonah. Simply put, God is in the business of forgiveness even though we don't deserve it!

- ☆ What was Jonah's response to God's mission for him this time?
- ☆ What was his message?
- ☆ How did the Ninevites respond?
Leaders: first with belief - then with humbling themselves (the significance of sackcloth - it was how people showed they were humbling themselves and repenting from a sinful action)
- ☆ How did God respond to the people of Nineveh?
- ☆ Why would God do this when Assyria was the enemy of God's people and were guilty of horrible things?

4.

Redirection

The 3 stages of repentance found in this passage:

1. *Conviction & Belief... God convicts the people through Jonah's message*

2. *Confession & Humility... Nineveh's belief causes them to act in admitting to their wrong-doing and humbling themselves*
3. *Turning from Evil... Nineveh follows up their belief and confession with a change in behaviour "let them turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence".*

5. Digging Deeper

Leader's key thought: most of us tend to stop before we get to the last step. We are convicted, feel bad, and then confess, but often don't change our behaviour.

- ☆ How does knowing that God forgives us and gives us second chances when we fail make you feel about God?
- ☆ Why do you think God gives us second chances (and 3rd chances and 4th chances and so on)?
- ☆ How does Jesus' death on the cross enable us to receive God's forgiveness?
- ☆ According to the story in Jonah, what do we need to do to accept God's offer of forgiveness?
- ☆ Are you willing to repent from your sin and going your own way and follow Jesus? Why or why not?