

# A HEART LIKE HIS

Part 1.0      Jonah's Mission Assignment      Jonah 1:1-3

## The BACKSTORY to Jonah

- The events of the Book took place around 760 BC
- NINEVEH was the largest Assyrian city
- Israel was paying TRIBUTE to Assyria at Nineveh since 841 BC

## God gives Jonah a MISSION

- Jonah fled in the OPPOSITE direction
- Jonah fled '*the PRESENCE of the Lord*' (2x)
  - OBEDIENCE allows *presence*; FLEEING sacrifices *presence*
- Mission assignments from God can be TOUGH
- God's PRESENCE gives strength to carry out His assignments
- God's Mission: Love HIM; love NEIGHBORS like God loves them

## God was TEACHING Jonah and Israel and us!

- Israel's failure to take God's NAME to surrounding people groups  
Matt. 28:19-21
- God's UNBIASED love and compassion for all people groups  
2 Cor. 5:18-21
- God never plays FAVORITES with His mercy or offers of salvation  
Romans 5:6, 8, 10
- God's mercy and compassion are extended WORLDWIDE!  
Exodus 34:5-7
- Jonah's personal STRUGGLE with God's mission for his life
- Stop giving animosity a religious stamp of APPROVAL

Whose heart is ours most like; God's or JONAH'S?

Auburn Grace Community Church – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Life Group Discussion Questions – January 5, 2020

**Jonah 1:1-3**, *'The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”<sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.'*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. As you think ahead to this New Year and this new decade is there something about your pace of life that you've decided to improve? Is there a spiritual practice that you've decided to implement into your regular schedule?
2. How can we avoid our culture's oversensitivity to becoming offended? How will you guard your heart from being easily offended? What topics, groups, or persons really push your buttons?

### MY STORY

1. Has there been someone outside of your family and friend group that has demonstrated God's love toward you? Who are they and how did they show His love? How did it make you feel to have God's love demonstrated to you by that person outside of your family and friend group?
2. Has God ever helped you overcome a lack of desire to love a difficult person and helped you love them anyway? Who was it and how did that happen?

### GOING DEEP

1. We are all called to 'love your neighbor', who are the easiest people to do this for? Who are the hardest?
2. Jonah intentionally knew he was fleeing 'the presence of the Lord'. What connection is there between following God's assignment for your life and experiencing His presence? Can you think of a time when, like Jonah, you fled from God's assignment? Did your fleeing the assignment impact your intimate fellowship with God? How?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6, 8, 10. How was God's love demonstrated to us in these verses? Do you see the progression from helpless, sinners, and enemies? How much did God love the people of Nineveh?
4. Read John 4:11. Why did God have compassion on the citizens of Nineveh? What are they described to be like? What does it mean to 'not know their right hand from their left'?

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?