

Week 13

Jonah Does the Right Thing JONAH 3 *We ask God to forgive us.*

What the Bible Says

God spoke to Jonah a second time. And *this* time Jonah obeyed. He went to Nineveh, a large city, and shouted God's message to crowds there: In 40 days, God would destroy the city.

The people believed Jonah. The citizens fasted. They wore burlap. Even the king of Nineveh stepped down from his throne to sit in a pile of ashes.

Then came the king's decree: Everyone—including animals—had to fast. All people had to wear mourning clothes and pray to God. They had to turn away from evil and cease violence.

God, seeing the Ninevites' change of heart, showed them mercy instead of destroying them.

What It Means

To be fair, the Ninevites weren't all that positive that God was faithful. What they *were* sure of was that they didn't want their city destroyed by God.

Nineveh held more than 120,000 people (Jonah 4:11). Organizing a city-wide period of mourning and repentance took some doing, but the Ninevites made it happen, hoping God would be merciful and spare their city.

It's the same process Jonah went through: He sinned, faced his own destruction while in the great fish, and then repented.

And God provided second chances to both Jonah and the Ninevites. And, in fact, he's still providing second chances to us.

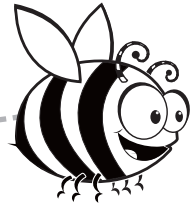
Why It Matters

OK, you try to do the right thing. You go to church. You even teach Buzz!

But, like Jonah and the Ninevites, you're not perfect. You've had your moments of rebellion, doubt, and jumping on a ship bound in the wrong direction.

You, too, have needed second chances. You may need one right now.

Good news: God's still in the second chance business. Ask for forgiveness, and you'll get it. Ask for a second chance, and God will pick you up, dust you off, and send you back where he sent you before.



God Sightings®

This week, you'll have to look carefully to see it:
forgiveness.

Look for forgiveness everywhere—in your relationships with others, in other people's relationships, and between you and God. See every instance of authentic forgiveness for what it is: a small miracle.

Let forgiveness remind you that you serve a God of second chances. And that's something to praise him for!

Prayer Starter

This week, ask God to surround your preschoolers with trustworthy, faithful adults. Write your prayer here.
