



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 8, 2017 Practice Radical Love

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD . . .

Nineveh was a great city known for its military might, economy and culture. However, the Ninevites were also wicked and violent people. They were enemies of Israel. This is why Jonah ran away from God's calling to preach the gospel to them (**Jonah 1**). Apparently, Jonah did not want the Ninevites to be saved from God's wrath. But God's radical love prevailed. He pursued Jonah in spite of his disobedience and saved the Ninevites in spite of their wickedness.

God loves us even if we have rebellious and wicked hearts like the Ninevites. This is God's radical kind of love: He is the God of second chances, He desires all people to come to repentance, and He always forgives.

GOD IS A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES.

Jonah in his deep desperation finally reconciled with God while he was inside the belly of the fish which God sent to swallow him. The fish brought him to Nineveh where he needed to go. (**Jonah 2**)

God's radical love did not only raise Jonah up but also gave him another chance to do what is right and be reconciled with God.

The story of Jonah shows that there are serious consequences that come with the disobedience of our rebellious hearts. But God is a God of second chances and His love for us is so radical that He will not let us stay comfortable and become complacent with not obeying Him.

When God speaks to us and we know He wants us to do something, our response should be GO. Perhaps God wants you to go back to your family, reach out to the people in your workplace, or go to the mission field. Wherever God is calling you to go follow Him. There should be something that grips your life which you are willing to die.

GOD DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO REPENT

God is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**). It is comforting to know that the heart of God desires all of us to repent because at times we may think God is looking for a way to judge and punish us. Repentance means to have a change in our mind, which leads to a change in our heart then leads to a change in our lifestyle.

The wicked, violent, and hard-hearted Ninevites repented because their hearts were touched by God. They believed the words of God which Jonah preached (**Jonah 3:4-5**). In response, the pagan king of Nineveh covered himself with a sackcloth, an expression of repentance, and he proclaimed a city-wide fast across all ages and social status.

Our ability to repent comes from God (**John 6:44**). Because it is only by the grace of God, we have nothing to boast for our own. Thus, there is also no reason for us to compare that we are better than others who have not repented.

What made the Ninevites believe in God is not Jonah, but God's Word. If God can use a rebel like Jonah, He can surely use any of us. This is because it is only by the living Word of God that people could get convicted to believe (**Hebrews 4:12**), and not by our readiness to persuade people or the lack of it.

GOD ALWAYS FORGIVES

We deserve to perish with the burning anger of God (**Jonah 3:9**). The wicked Ninevites deserved to die, but when God saw them repent and turn away from their wickedness, God forgave them (**Jonah 3:10**).

If today we are to humble ourselves before Him and repent, God will forgive us because He always forgives. Similarly, our response to those who have wronged and hurt us must also be to forgive (**Mark 11:25**). That is. Even if someone sinned against us multiple times, our response should always be to forgive. (**Luke 17:3-4**)

When Jesus Christ forgave us, He died on the cross and paid the penalty of our sins by His blood. Because the radical love of Jesus forgives, our response, therefore, is also to do the same in return. God loves us radically. He gives us second chances to repent and forgive. Forgiveness is not cheap, but priceless free gift. We have the opportunity and privilege to give that gift of forgiveness to anyone who sin against us.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. Is there a family member or Dgroup member you need to go to and ask forgiveness from?
2. Do you need to go and forgive a family member or a Dgroup member?
3. Is there a sin that you need to repent of? Pride? Selfishness? Indifference?

Just go and do what God is asking you to do and HE will supply the grace you need to do it.

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.