

# BREAKOUT

## LEARNING FROM JONAH FOR LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN



### Jonah Week 3 || The Mercy of God

Let me begin by asking a simple question. What is mercy? If you have mercy on someone you 'let him or her off the hook'. This is a quality that has to do with compassion and forgiveness. For example, if convicted of a crime you might plead for the judge's mercy (ie a lesser punishment), you throw yourself 'on the mercy of the court'.

Let me use a slightly different definition. God's mercy is a response to human need in an unexpected or unmerited way.

Psalm 136v1 – **"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his mercy endures forever." (KJV)**

**That** phrase is repeated three times in as many verses in that Psalm. The Psalmists calls upon the saints to give thanks to the Lord for this attribute.

In Scripture God's mercy is called;-

Great – 1 Kings 3.6

Plenteous – Psalm 86.5

Tender – Luke 1.78

Abundant – 1Peter 1.3

From everlasting to everlasting – Psalm 103.17

## Questions

- Consider the story so far. In what ways has Jonah already experienced the mercy of God? Did this experience strengthen him in his vocation as a prophet to the city of Nineveh?
- What is your experience of God's mercy? Can you describe a time when God's mercy became very real to you? Has this changed your dealings with, and attitudes to, other people in your life?
- Why was Nineveh an undeserving city? List its evil ways. What did it deserve from God?
- What was the unexpected response of God to this city? Why did he send Jonah to preach to them? What was their response? What should be our response to receiving the mercy of God?
- How much do we see our community and our country as being in need of God's mercy? How do we show that as a church community?
- Extra question if you have any time left! What is the nature of true repentance? In what ways is repentance the key to receiving God's mercy?

## Prayer

Merciful God, I need and desire mercy from you. I deserve punishment for my sin but I ask forgiveness and mercy. I ask for wisdom and knowledge about you and your ways, God. Teach me and guide me so I stay away from temptation. Fill me with knowledge so I can be more like you, my merciful Father. Amen.

