

# JOURNEY TOWARD GOD - 3

## Delivering God's Message

"When God saw  
what they did, how they  
turned from their evil way,  
God repented of the evil  
which he had said  
he would do to them;  
and he did not do it."  
- Jonah 3:10

"God wants to work *in* us as  
well as *through* us."

Throughout the book of Jonah, Jonah's *reluctance* stands in stark contrast to the Lord's *resolve*. Jonah did not love the people he preached to, yet God used his message to bring an entire city to repentance. Yet God was just as concerned with Jonah. God could have sent somebody else to preach to Nineveh, but Jonah would have missed out on the lessons he needed to learn. Just as with Jonah, God desires to work *in* us as well as *through* us.

### Welcome

What was one of the worst things your brother or sister did to you as a child?

### Worship

Praise God that He cares about all the peoples of the earth. Spend time praying specifically for the people you know who are carrying the gospel across cultural or national boundaries. Possible songs: "Freely, Freely" (635), "How Beautiful" (365), "Open My Eyes" (830), "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (290), "Instruments of Your Peace" (828).

### Word

#### Read Jonah 3:1-10

1. What do you learn from this passage about the elements needed to bring someone to genuine change or repentance?
2. In what ways does genuine repentance differ from mere conviction or confession of sin? How is the Ninevites' repentance evident in this passage?
3. In what ways is God's "gracious anger" evident both toward the Ninevites as well as Jonah?
4. What accounts for the Ninevites' change of heart? For God's change of heart (vs 10)? What does this teach you about God's will (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4)?
5. Describe the last time you did the "loving" thing, but didn't have a "loving" attitude. Did God bring about a change of heart in the process? Explain.

### Works

Share an area of your life right now where you are obediently, but reluctantly, following God. *What is God teaching you, or what attitude adjustment is He trying to make in the process?*

Pray and minister to one another as you share your responses with each other.