

Week 1: Where's Nineveh?

1. The book of Jonah begins with God's command to Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh, and Jonah's attempt to escape this calling. 2 Kings 14:23-25 highlights how Jonah had been Ok with sharing God's Word of blessing with the (evil) king of Israel Jeroboam II. However, we see here that when Jonah is called to share God's Word of impending judgment with Israel's enemies Jonah runs. He is obedient when called to preach good news to wicked Israel, but disobedient when called to preach bad news to Israel's wicked enemies.

- a. Why do you think that is?
- b. In what ways is Jonah's response understandable and even reasonable?
- c. In what ways is his response hypocritical and prejudicial?

2. At some point, we were all a type of Ninevah, lost in our sin and under peril of God's judgment. Then someone shared with us the grace of Christ and we were saved. But when God calls us to share with others—especially those we don't like—we often harden our hearts or go the other way.

- a. How have you dealt with this personally?
- b. Are there people that you have a tougher time sharing God's truth with than others? Who is it and why is it more difficult for you?

3. Obviously, God is Lord of the whole earth and yet Jonah tries to escape "the presence of the Lord" so that he can get out of this assignment by going the opposite direction. While this seems ridiculous, we try and do the same thing all the time.

- a. What are some ways that we do this?
- b. Can you think of a time when you tried to run from God's call? What happened?
- c. What did you learn from this experience?

4. Who or where is your Nineveh right now? How has God called you to minister to them? What is holding you back?

