

Jonah

(week 4 – chapter 3)

1. If a genuine repentance and turning to God were to occur in Australia, what signs would you expect to see?

Just a question to get started, and thinking about how we can identify what ‘true repentance’ might look like.

Read Jonah chapter 3

Here in chapter 3 we see yet again a great demonstration of God’s gracious and steadfast love. We learn that “the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time”. As one who had been given such a great responsibility and who had so clearly openly rebelled against God, he deserved nothing but judgment. We see however, that God does not act as Jonah deserves. God shows mercy and forgiveness in not discarding his disobedient prophet, and gives him another chance to speak the word of God.

2. How do you think Jonah would have felt about being given a second chance?

In light of his turn-around in chapter 2, he would have surely been thankful that the LORD spared him of the punishment that he deserved. You would expect that he would be keen to make amends for his previous disobedience.

3. How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah’s proclamation in verse 4?

Their response immediate and drastic. They took seriously the words of the LORD, and responded appropriately to the warning that they had been issued.

4. What are the signs of repentance that are displayed by the Ninevites in the following areas: *(simply identify these from verses 5-9)*

- a. How they thought –

- b. What they said –

- c. How they acted –

5. Read the following passages that describe repentance. Put together a 'profile' of what a repentant person looks like from these passages:
(Probably best to break the kids into groups, and get them to report back on what they learn from their passage as some of the passages are lengthy)

a. 2 Kings 22-23

b. Ezra 9:1-10:17

c. Daniel 9:1-19

d. Luke 18:9-14

6. How and why does the LORD respond to the Ninevites?

He has compassion on them, and as a result he does not bring about the punishment that was coming their way. This doesn't mean that God didn't know what was going to happen, but simply that this was the method he used to bring about repentance from the people.

7. What are some areas of your life in which you feel there is a need for repentance? (If you have not felt convicted by the need to change recently, why do you think this might be and what can you do about it?)

A chance to challenge the kids practically about areas in which they need to repent, and to challenge them about the importance of being convicted about our sins as a result of hearing the word of God.

8. What steps are you going to take to demonstrate the sincerity of your repentance?

*Practical application of **how** they are going to repent in the areas identified above.*