
LEADERSHIP COACHING: BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Discipleship Phrase: I can trust God.

Big Idea for Series: Discovering God's character & plan through the Minor Prophets.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

Many Christians can find themselves calling for the judgment of others. However, God tells us in John 13:35, "Your *love* for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples..." Did you catch that? It's our *love* that proves something, not our judgments. So, where have you been calling for judgment on someone and forgotten to *love* mercy? Be vulnerable, share from the heart this week...

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

"My group isn't going deep enough..." Sounds familiar? Depth is something all group leaders should strive for. It's that area of in-group conversation that exists beyond the surface where transparency and authenticity are on full display. Great group leaders are dedicated to the craft of facilitating well and getting the group to a point beyond the surface level. It can be achieved in several ways; however, one way is by always asking *good follow up questions*. When someone has just answered the heart question, don't settle, be courageous enough to ask for more clarity. Be bold enough to ask direct questions. Don't overthink it, the best follow-up questions are sometimes the simplest.

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

Shepherds are in touch with the needs of the sheep. How in tune are you with the flock that God has entrusted to you? Do you know what each member needs to grow spiritually this season? Void of intentionality you never will. Time and proximity are the only elixirs. Lead *intentionally*.

Smaller rosters are less difficult to know intimately because you're not spread so thin. However, heavier rosters are considerably more difficult. In either case, Consideration must be given to the ratio of spiritual infants & children to spiritual young adults & emerging parents in your group. Groups heavier on infants & children will find it more challenging and could end up feeling overwhelmed. To combat this, it is wise to have an apprentice who shares the load along with an additional person who you see leadership potential in as well. Amongst the three of you, the load can be better distributed. These are your allies to help counterbalance in-group times as well as relationships outside-of-group.

Background Plus® [a deeper dive into the context of this week's story]

- Jonah is not about Jonah and a fish; it is about the will of God and how we respond to it.
- The Bible Project - [Jonah](#) Also, see last week's leader page for more info on Jonah.

All Church

Remember to prayerfully consider contributing to BEYOND, our missions fund.



WEEK 8 - TOPIC: THE MERCY OF GOD

TAKEAWAY: THOUGH WE ALL DESERVE JUDGMENT, GOD GIVES MERCY

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions [Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]

Review the Guidelines [Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]

Review Last Week [A follow up to last week's takeaway]

Ask the group how *earnest prayer & repentance* may have benefitted them this week? [For accountability]

Ask A Hook Question [A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]

Have you ever been busted doing something wrong but got off a lot easier than you expected?

Share Background for the Story [Provide context to the story from the Bible]

There are many lessons that can be learned in the book of Jonah. In chapter one, we learn that we can run far from God, but not run away from Him. In chapter two, we learn that God forgives those that call upon Him. In chapter three, we learn about the mighty power of God as a whole city humbles themselves before God. In chapter four, we learn about God's compassion for the worst of sinners, like the Ninevites. The grace we expect from God needs to be replicated in our own lives and give to others.

Share the Story: [Jonah 3-4](#)

Rebuild the Story [Invites everyone to engage]

Read from Scripture [Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discussion Questions: [Dive deeper, beyond the surface]

1. What emotions did Jonah have throughout this story?
2. What did Jonah know to be true of God's character?
3. Like Jonah, where are you calling for, or passing judgment on other people? And how have you forgotten the mercy you have received from others and from God?
4. Micha 6:8 says that God requires us, "to do what is right; love mercy, and walk humbly with your God". Where in your life does God want you to start showing how you can "love mercy" this week?

Assign Next Week's Passage: [Numbers 21:4-9](#)

Prayer Requests [Record, share & follow up throughout the week]

Closing Prayer [Ask openly for a volunteer]
