PEOPLE OF THE 2ND CHANCE



SHEPHERDCHURCH

LESSON 4:
THE PROPHET (JONAH)

WELCOME

Answer one of the following two questions:
• What's the strangest, funniest, or most surprising place you've fallen asleep?
• Share the most creative excuse you've used to get out of doing something that you didn't want to do.

WORSHIP

Have one person read Jonah 2:1–9 to your Life Group. Spend time in silence to pray, confessing anywhere you've been running from God, then thanking Him for the times He rescued you when you didn't deserve it.

Below are seven discussion questions/prompts. There's no pressure to cover every question. As a Life Group, feel free to choose the questions/prompts that you want to cover and use the rest for personal reflection and deeper study during the week. If you haven't already, watch the video lesson on Shepherd Church's Life Groups webpage.

WORD

If you haven't already, watch the video lesson and read Jonah 1–4.

1. Why is our society quick to downplay some sins as "just bad decisions" or write people off? How is God's mercy better than both?

2. In Jonah 1:12–17, why are we tempted to view the fish as God's punishment? How might the fish demonstrate God's mercy?

3. How does Matthew 12:38–41 deepen our understanding of Jonah 2 (especially vs. 9)?

4. What are the similarities and differences between Jonah 1:1–3 and Jonah 3:1–5? What do the words "a second time" reveal about God?

5. Jonah 4:1–2 tells us why Jonah ran. What is God calling you to do that you're hesitant to say yes to? What's one step you can take toward saying yes?

WITNESS

As Thanksgiving and Christmas draw closer, go to shepherdchurch.com/go and, as a Life Group, choose an outreach project to participate in sometime in the next few weeks. Make sure everyone in your Life Group has the details.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

This section is designed to help you keep growing in your faith throughout the week by reflecting on what you discussed in your Life Group and studying passages/concepts related to the lesson. As you spend time with these prompts, ask God to speak to you, apply His Word to your life, and help you take your next step with Jesus. Go at your own pace, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time with Him.

• Review anything in the WORD section that either was not covered during your Life Group or that you want to take a deeper dive into.

• Memorize Jonah 2:7, 9 and/or Jonah 4:2

• Read Jonah 2 and Matthew 12:38–41; Luke 11:29–32; Psalm 16:9–11; Acts 2:24–32; and 1 Corinthians 15:3–4. Then, answer the following questions: What parallels do you see between Jonah's three days in the fish and Jesus' three days in the grave? What are the key differences (especially in why each of them went down into the depths)? How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message, and why do you think Jesus used them as a warning to the religious leaders of His day? What makes Jesus "greater than Jonah"?

• Read Psalm 40:1–3, and take a few minutes to sketch a simple timeline of your life, marking both the low valleys and the mountaintop moments. Circle one valley where you can now see God at work, and if you feel comfortable, share it with family, friends, and even your Life Group.