



Bible Study Guide: Jonah • Micah • Nahum

Jonah – When God Goes to Great Lengths

The book of Jonah is about far more than a man swallowed by a fish it's about a God who will go to extraordinary lengths to get our attention. Whether through a storm, a sea creature, or a withering plant, God uses the unexpected to speak. He doesn't just pursue Nineveh; He pursues Jonah too. And by the end of the story, we're left asking not what Jonah will do, but what we believe about God whose mercy reaches even our enemies.

Scripture Focus:

Jonah 4:2 – *“I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.”*

Discussion Question:

Why do you think God sometimes uses unusual or even uncomfortable ways to get our attention? What do those moments show us about His character and how far He's willing to go to reach us?

Takeaway:

God doesn't always work in predictable ways, but His goal is always the same: to wake us up to His mercy. Sometimes disruption is the first step to restoration.

Micah – The Shepherd-King We Forgot We Needed: Micah calls out corruption, greed, and religious hypocrisy not out of anger alone, but to reveal what God truly desires: integrity, compassion, and humility. During failed leadership, Micah offers vision of peace: a Shepherd-King will rise, not from Jerusalem's throne, but from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). This ruler won't lead through force but will shepherd in the strength of the Lord (Micah 5:4), gathering the broken and bringing lasting peace. The image is one that points beyond Micah's day to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who doesn't just command justice but embodies it, leading people into a life shaped by mercy and humility.

Scripture Focus:

Micah 6:8 – *“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

Discussion Question:

How does this vision prepare the way for Jesus, who later calls Himself the Good Shepherd? Why do you think Jesus leads with compassion instead of conquest and how does that reshape our understanding of what real power looks like in God's kingdom

Takeaway:

He doesn't rule by fear, but by love. He calls us to live the way He leads justly, kindly, humbly like a shepherd with His flock.

Nahum – When Patience Runs Out



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Nahum is a hard work, but a needed one. It comes long after Jonah, to the same city: Nineveh. Their repentance didn't last, and now their cruelty has gone too far. Nahum reminds us that while God is patient, His patience doesn't mean injustice gets a free pass. He sees the violence, the pride, the pain — and eventually, He says, "Enough." His justice isn't a contradiction of His love; it's a part of it.

Scripture Focus:

Nahum 1:3 – *"The Lord is slow to anger but great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty."*

Discussion Question:

God is described as both slow to anger and determined to act. What does that teach us about His character? How does it shape the way we think about His timing and His justice?

Takeaway:

God's slowness to anger is grace. But when the time comes, He defends what is good and brings down what destroys.

Closing Reflection: What These Three Prophets Reveal About God

In Jonah, we see a God who will interrupt, surprise, and even frustrate us to bring mercy to unexpected people. In Micah, we hear a God who wants more than ritual — He wants character that reflects His heart. And in Nahum, we meet a God who has waited long enough, who steps in to defend the oppressed and dismantle the proud. Together, these books show a God who is patient, but not passive. Compassionate, but not permissive. Righteous, but always ready to redeem.

Wrap-Up Question:

Looking across Jonah, Micah, and Nahum what patterns do you see in the way God deals with people? What does that reveal about what He wants from us and for us?