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Valley Church  
Week 18 – God's Grace for Gentiles (Jonah)

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### Introduction:

After King Solomon dies, the nation is spiritually stagnant and politically divided into a northern kingdom (Israel) and a southern kingdom (Judah) in 931 B.C.

God's promise: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves...I will...heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

### Lessons Learned by Jonah in God's School of Grace:

Jonah 1:1-3

1. We can run from God, but we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Jonah 1:17

2. God disciplines not to \_\_\_\_\_ us back, but to \_\_\_\_\_ us back.

Jonah 2:10

3. We are to \_\_\_\_\_ grace as freely as we have been \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Jonah 3:4

Jonah 4:2

### Key Take-Aways:

If you're on the run from God, you'll never outrun Him.

If you're in a time of discipline, God is bringing you back, not paying you back.

If you're not already gushing with grace, God will squeeze it out by humbling you.

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Over the past week, can you think of an example of when another person showed you grace? Can you think of a situation when you were able to offer grace? Discuss with your group...

### **Ponderings:**

2. Most followers of Jesus desire to be gracious toward others. Yet, there are times when the most loving thing to do is hold the person accountable for their actions. In what sense is it possible to hold a person accountable in a gracious way? Have you ever had to do this? Try to offer specific real or hypothetical examples if possible...
3. Share about a time when offering grace made you uncomfortable as it did for Jonah – perhaps when you gave grace while feeling that the other party deserved payback?
4. As a group, read the perplexing conclusion of Jonah (chapter 4) in its entirety and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
  - What do Jonah's words in the first 3 verses tell us about human nature apart from becoming a new creation?
  - Why do you think Jonah sat down to see what would happen to Nineveh? Do you think he was still hoping God would fry them? (v. 5)
  - Why do you think these odd details are included about the vine sprouting up, the worm eating it, etc.? (v. 6-8)
  - What do God's closing words tell us about His attributes and qualities? (v. 9-11)
5. When you consider the brutality in our world, there are parallels to Nineveh (devaluing life, idol-worship, arrogance, etc.) How does Jonah's mission parallel ours as Christ's New Covenant Church? How is it different?

### **Promptings:**

6. Taking one more look at the "Key Take-Aways" section of your message notes, which of these most closely describes where you're at? What adjustments can you make in your attitudes and/or actions to address it in a way that honors God and His gospel of grace?