



Jonah: God's Heart for the Nations (2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1-4) Truth to Power (Part 10)

THE BIG IDEA

God exposes our unconscious biases so we can see people the way God sees them and show them the same grace God has shown to us.

OPENING

- What comes to your mind when you think about the story of Jonah?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Jonah 1:1-3. Why does Jonah run from God?
- Read Jonah 1:4, 1:17, and 4:6. What does God provide in these verses? How are these verses evidence of God's grace toward Jonah?
- Read Jeremiah 18:7-8. What does this passage promise. How is the book of Jonah evidence of this principle?
- Reformed Bible scholar Richard Philips says, *"This is a truth that many of God's people have struggled to accept. They are all too happy for God's mercy to be extended to them—but not to others! This was very much the case of the ancient Israelites, who prided themselves as God's chosen people. The Israelites possessed the word of the prophets and God's covenant of grace. Yet they forgot that these were held not solely for themselves, but in trust for all the world...In fact, Israel's call to bless the nations goes back to their very beginning, in God's promise to the patriarch Abraham: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Gen. 12:2). Jonah is in this respect*



a figure depicting all of Israel. He resented the idea of Israel's God sending Israel's grace to non-Israelites—especially to the hated Ninevites."¹ How is this true today of the Church?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Spend time this week inviting the Holy Spirit to uncover your unconscious biases. What does God reveal?

- Make a list of the ways God has shown his grace and kindness to you. Review this list throughout the week, especially when you are tempted to respond to others without grace or kindness.

PRAYER REQUESTS

¹Richard D. Phillips, *Jonah & Micah, Reformed Expository Commentary* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing Company, 2010), p. 6