



God's compassion for the great city

AT A GLANCE



Bible

Jonah 3–4



Topic

Loving enemies and the breadth of God



Takeaway

God loves even those I consider enemies



10–15 minutes



Object: a world map



Preparation: 10 min



indoors or by the fire



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic "Loving enemies and the breadth of God". Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

2 min

Opening

Spread out the map. Ask: Which city, country or group is for you the epitome of "the bad guys"?

3 min

Bible text

Read Jonah 3:1–10 and 4:1–11. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians – Israel's most feared enemy. Of all places, God sends his prophet there, and of all places, he succeeds there.

5 min

Thought

Jonah is not a children's book about a fish but a provocation: God's mercy is not only for "us" but also for our enemies. God's last words are about more than 120,000 people and even the animals of the city. That challenges our friend-and-enemy thinking – in politics, in church and in the schoolyard.

5 min

Conversation

What would it look like to see the "Ninevehs" of our time through God's eyes?



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Prayer to read aloud

God of all nations, you have compassion on the cities we write off. Free us from hatred and make us messengers of your mercy. Amen.

To think further

- Where do we confuse God's justice with our revenge?
- Jesus names Jonah as a sign (Matthew 12:40). What does he mean?

For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.
- With heavy topics, keep an eye on who is struggling and be available afterwards.

 **Section:** Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.