

## Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life – Table and Towel dates; Sola series; Trunk or Treat.

## Learning

### *Knowing God*

#### Key Doctrines

- *God* – God is merciful and compassionate. God is unchanging in his character and his purposes.
- *Salvation* – God’s grace alone is what saves us and changes us.

#### Key Observations

- *Read: Jonah 3:1-4, Ephesians 1:3-6*
  - What does God’s second calling of Jonah tell us about his plans and purposes? What do we learn here about the stubbornness of grace?  
*What we see clearly in this second call of Jonah is God’s persistent and stubborn grace at work. God has a plan, he is determined to accomplish. He is also determined to use Jonah to accomplish this plan.*

- What does this passage from Ephesians tell us about God’s eternal plan of salvation?  
*God’s plan of salvation is grounded in his eternal glory and goodness. God’s plan of salvation is not based on us, but based on his love and holiness. Nothing in human history has or can alter this plan.*

- How much is God’s plan dependent upon us?  
*We will dive into this more in the next two questions, but in short what is clear is that God’s plan has nothing to do with our behavior, but rather is anchored in his wisdom and character. We cannot force God’s hand.*

- *Read: Jonah 3:5-9, Mark 1:14-15, Ephesians 2:8, 2 Timothy 2:24-25*

- According to Jonah 3:5-9 and Mark 1:14-15 what is the proper response to God’s saving word?  
*The two key features demonstrated in Jonah 3:5-9 are explicitly called for in Mark 1:14-15 by Jesus. Namely, that human beings are called to repent and to believe in response to God’s saving word.*

- What do Ephesians 2:8 and 2 Timothy 2:24-25 teach us about the source of faith and repentance?  
*It is important that we are careful not to think somehow our faith or repentance is our own work. They are not virtues we can drum up in response to God’s grace, but they themselves are signs of the work of grace. Both faith and repentance are in fact gifts of grace wrought by the work of the Holy Spirit.*

➤ *Read:* Jonah 3:10, Joel 2:12-14, Romans 9:14-18

- What do these passages teach us about God's character?

*God is loving, compassionate, and slow to anger.  
This is the constant narrative throughout the Bible.  
God's desire is to bless people with his very life of love.*

- What does Romans 9:14-18 tell us about the reason for God's mercy? Is it a result of our right behavior, or is it a free choice of God?

*God's mercy is not something we can control.  
Ultimately, God decides how he will show mercy and to whom he will show mercy. Thankfully, this truth is anchored in the first truth, that God is inclined toward mercy and compassion and that he is slow to anger.*

## **Listening**

*Responding to God*

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

## **Loving**

*Obeying God*

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?

- This week I am committed to praying for \_\_\_\_\_ about:

## **Checking Out**

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?

- Close in Prayer and Read Luke 19:10.