

1. Have you ever had to make an apology to someone that was particularly difficult? What made it so? How did you get through it?
2. Read Jonah 3:5–10. What does the text indicate in v5 was the first response of the Ninevites? Why might this have been surprising? What was required of the Ninevites to respond this way?
3. Read Jonah 3:5–8. How did the Ninevites demonstrate what they thought about their sin? In what ways can we demonstrate the same thing today?
4. Read Jonah 3:8b. What adverb did the king use to qualify his instructions for the Ninevites “to call” out to God? What does it look like to do this? Why are we sometimes reticent to ask for God’s forgiveness?
5. Read Jonah 3:8–10. What word gets repeated in these verses that indicates the genuine repentance of the Ninevites? How do we distinguish between a works-based salvation and a salvation that is proven genuine by works? What’s the difference? Why is it important to make the distinction?
6. Read Jonah 3:10. Thank God for being the kind of God who relents when his people repent.
7. Read 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 51. Then, ask God to reveal through his word anything that might require you to repent. Then, follow the steps. Accept. Admit. Ask. Alter. And Accept. Then, thank God that what Dane Ortlund suggests is true.

“(Christ) does not get flustered and frustrated when we come to him for fresh forgiveness, for renewed pardon, with distress and need and emptiness. That’s the whole point. It’s what he came to heal. He went down into the horror of death and plunged out through the other side in order to provide a limitless supply of mercy and grace to his people.”