

# Perspective of God

WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE DO YOU PERCEIVE AS ANTAGONISTIC TO THE GOSPEL?

## OVERVIEW

**WHO** are the characters?

**WHEN** do the events happen?

**WHERE** do the events take place?

**WHY** do these events occur?

**WHAT** is the point of this story?

## JONAH 3:1-10:

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

*What the Lord commands:*

2

3 *How Jonah responds:*

4

5 The Ninevites . . .

*How they responded:*

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh . . .

*How the king responded:*

7

8

9 *What the king's hope is:*

10 When God saw what they did . . .

*How God responds:*

Consider the words of Ashurbanibal II, King of Assyria (883-859 B.C.):



"I STORMED THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND TOOK THEM. IN THE MIDST OF THE MIGHTY MOUNTAIN I SLAUGHTERED THEM; WITH THEIR BLOOD I DYED THE MOUNTAIN RED LIKE WOOL...THE HEADS OF THEIR WARRIORS I CUT OFF, AND I FORMED THEM INTO A PILLAR OVER AGAINST THEIR CITY; THEIR YOUNG MEN AND THEIR MAIDENS I BURNED WITH FIRE."

SEEING PEOPLE AS GOD SEES THEM IS BELIEVING HE CAN REACH THEM.

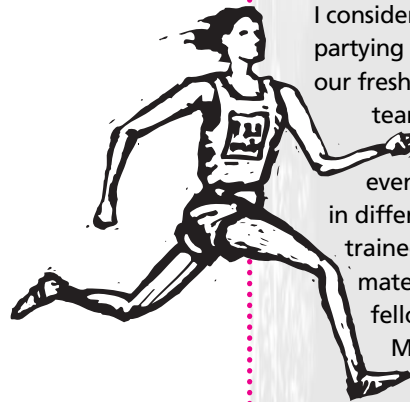
POINT OF VIEW

# Jonah's View of Nineveh

1. If Jonah were asked to describe the people of Nineveh, what words or phrases would he use?
2. How do you think he felt about them?
3. What may have caused Jonah to view them as he did?

# God's View of Nineveh

1. If God were asked to describe the people of Nineveh, what words or phrases would He use?
2. How do you think He felt about them?
3. What may have caused God to view them as He did?



MIKE'S PORTRAIT

**Mike was a highly recruited track athlete.**

I considered him a prideful, partying freshman. Nevertheless, our freshman year on the track team was marked by a decent relationship even though we competed in different events and rarely trained together. My roommate David, a Christian and fellow pole vaulter with Mike, worked out with him daily.

Dinnertime together frequently involved Mike attacking Christianity. Afterwards, I would hole up in my room with Josh McDowell books, trying to find answers to the issues raised. His freshman research paper argued, "Why the Noah's Ark Story Must be a Myth."

I never felt like I made much progress in my arguments with Mike. He certainly never indicated he was persuaded. So I just wrote him off as too antagonistic. I heard stories about his lifestyle which validated that perception as well.

By our junior year, our paths had parted somewhat. Yet, one day he excitedly approached me saying, "Gary, I've become a Christian!"

My full-of-faith response was, "You're kidding!" Yet after convincing me of his sincerity, I asked, "What changed? What happened to all your intellectual problems with Christianity?"

Mike replied, "All those seemed unimportant after witnessing David's life. I realized I couldn't argue that away."

I stood there feeling a mixture of excitement and embarrassment. I was excited to see Mike as a new creature in Christ, but ashamed that I had written him off.

## SELF PORTRAIT

Identify two or three people you have been reluctant to reach out to.

What have you assumed about them?

Reconsider what may really be true about them.

What steps can you take to find out?