



HOPE

How can we imitate God's character of compassion, love, and forgiveness, with those who have made mistakes or wronged us?



Read Jonah 1-4

Listen to the Message 'Restorative Hope - How can we imitate God's character of compassion, love, and forgiveness, with those who have made mistakes or wronged us?' (16th July 2023) at www.elim.family/media

In this message we explore the story of Jonah, a well-known prophet, who witnessed God's incredible power and revival. As we delve into Jonah's story, we discover that it's not just about a story about a fish but about the transformative power of God's grace and the hope of second chances. Jonah ran away from God's calling, but God pursued him, providing a miraculous rescue and restoration. This teaches us that no matter how far we've strayed or how we've failed, there is always hope for restoration through God's unwavering love and mercy.

The story of Jonah reminds us that God offers second chances and calls us to extend grace to others, even those we may consider unworthy or our enemies. It encourages us to examine our own hearts, asking ourselves if we are truly reflecting God's character of compassion and mercy. The story of Jonah teaches us that no one is beyond redemption and that God's love has the power to transform lives. As we embrace restorative hope, we become agents of change, showing love, compassion, and second chances to those around us, just as God has shown to us.

Questions for reflection:

1. Have you ever experienced a moment in your life where you felt like running away from God's calling or purpose for you? How did you respond in that situation? What can you learn from Jonah's example?
2. Think about a person or group of people in your life who you struggle to show grace, compassion, or forgiveness to. Why do you find it difficult to extend these qualities to them? How might God's restorative hope inspire you to view them differently?
3. Reflect on your own experiences of receiving God's grace and second chances. How has God's forgiveness and restoration impacted your life? In what ways can you extend that same grace to others, even those who have hurt you?