

JONAH

THE GOD THAT PURSUES YOU

Week #4: Jonah

Jonah was really upset and angry. 2 So he prayed:

Our Lord, I knew from the very beginning that you wouldn't destroy Nineveh. That's why I left my own country and headed for Spain. You are a kind and merciful God, and you are very patient. You always show love, and you don't like to punish anyone.

3 Now let me die! I'd be better off dead.

4 The Lord replied, "What right do you have to be angry?"

5 Jonah then left through the east gate of the city and made a shelter to protect himself from the sun. He sat under the shelter, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh.

6 The Lord made a vine grow up to shade Jonah's head and protect him from the sun. Jonah was very happy to have the vine, 7 but early the next morning the Lord sent a worm to chew on the vine, and the vine dried up. 8 During the day the Lord sent a scorching wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head, making him feel faint. Jonah was ready to die, and he shouted, "I wish I were dead!"

9 But the Lord asked, "Jonah, do you have the right to be angry about the vine?"

"Yes, I do," he answered, "and I'm angry enough to die."

10 But the Lord said:

You are concerned about a vine that you did not plant or take care of, a vine that grew up in one night and died the next. 11 In that city of Nineveh there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell right from wrong, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?

Jonah 4:2-11 (CEV)

What was Jonah's problem?

- Jonah wanted God's grace for _____, but not for _____.
- Jonah's problem and ours is with _____.

What was God's solution?

- When we lack love God will keep showing us _____ and teaching us _____.

How do we find compassion for "them?"

- Realize that they are made in the _____.
- Remember people are greater _____.
- Remind yourself you _____.
- Rejoice in a God who pursues _____.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the story of Jonah show you about the character of God? What personal characteristics do you have that might align more with Jonah than with God's?
2. What has challenged you about this story?
3. Are there character attributes that you feel God might be inviting you to investigate in yourself, and perhaps repent of the ways in which you were more like Jonah than Jesus? What are they?

Recommended Resources

- *Running From Mercy: Jonah and the Surprising Story of God's Unstoppable Grace*, by Anthony Carter
- *Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God's Mercy*, by Timothy Keller
- *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love*, by John M. Perkins

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

Week #4: Jonah - **FILL COPY**

Jonah was really upset and angry. 2 So he prayed:

Our Lord, I knew from the very beginning that you wouldn't destroy Nineveh. That's why I left my own country and headed for Spain. You are a kind and merciful God, and you are very patient. You always show love, and you don't like to punish anyone.

3 Now let me die! I'd be better off dead.

4 The Lord replied, "What right do you have to be angry?"

5 Jonah then left through the east gate of the city and made a shelter to protect himself from the sun. He sat under the shelter, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh.

6 The Lord made a vine grow up to shade Jonah's head and protect him from the sun. Jonah was very happy to have the vine, 7 but early the next morning the Lord sent a worm to chew on the vine, and the vine dried up. 8 During the day the Lord sent a scorching wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head, making him feel faint. Jonah was ready to die, and he shouted, "I wish I were dead!"

9 But the Lord asked, "Jonah, do you have the right to be angry about the vine?"

"Yes, I do," he answered, "and I'm angry enough to die."

10 But the Lord said:

You are concerned about a vine that you did not plant or take care of, a vine that grew up in one night and died the next. 11 In that city of Nineveh there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell right from wrong, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?

Jonah 4:2-11 (CEV)

What was Jonah's problem?

- Jonah wanted God's grace for **himself**, but not for **them**.
- Jonah's problem and ours is with **love**.

What was God's solution?

- When we lack love God will keep showing us **grace** and teaching us **truth**.

How do we find compassion for "them?"

- Realize that they are made in the **image of God**.
- Remember people are greater **than things**.
- Remind yourself you **run too**.
- Rejoice in a God who pursues **everyone**.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the story of Jonah show you about the character of God? What personal characteristics do you have that might align more with Jonah than with God's?
2. What has challenged you about this story?
3. Are there character attributes that you feel God might be inviting you to investigate in yourself, and perhaps repent of the ways in which you were more like Jonah than Jesus? What are they?

Recommended Resources

- *Running From Mercy: Jonah and the Surprising Story of God's Unstoppable Grace*, by Anthony Carter
- *Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God's Mercy*, by Timothy Keller
- *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love*, by John M. Perkins

CEV (Contemporary English Version)