

GROUP DISCUSSION SHEET

Beyond capacity | Week 4 | Nov 24, 2024

Scripture and Big Idea

Jonah 4 | God challenges us to embrace his compassion beyond reason

Questions for Connection *(Offer these to help the group become comfortable and connected)*

1. What are the experiences you are most thankful for in this past year?
2. Who are three people you are thankful for in your church?

Questions for Study *(Fact questions get people reading the Bible. Application questions get people talking. Both are needed.)*

Warm up: When have you been angry when an “undeserving” person received a blessing?
Was there a question in the Live it Out that you would like to discuss further?

Read Jonah 4 **Sermon Principle: We want others to earn what we were freely given**

1. What specific qualities of God did Jonah mention? Why did he want to keep them from the Ninevites? Why do we sometimes not want others to experience mercy?
2. What does Jonah’s request to die suggest about his priorities or perspective? How do we sometimes overreact to frustrations or disappointments?
3. How does God’s response in verse 4 challenge Jonah? How might it challenge us when we feel upset about God’s actions?
4. Jonah liked mercy when it benefited him. List all the ways God shows mercy to Jonah. List all the ways God has shown mercy to you. How can remembering the mercy you have been shown help you extend mercy to others. (Luke 7:41-47)
5. Jonah was angry that the vine withered but not if Nineveh withered. Many people cry over broken objects or lost things but don’t weep for those living apart from Jesus. What can we do to be less sensitive to our own interests and more concerned with the spiritual needs of people around us?
6. What was God’s point in telling Jonah that he had not tended or made the vine grow? What is the truth God is trying to teach Judah with the vine? How would you say it in your own words?
7. God described the people of Nineveh as “those who don’t know their right hand from their left.” What does that convey about God’s compassion toward them? Why number the Ninevites and animals?
8. What is your attitude toward those who are especially wicked? List some that you would put in that category. Will you pray with your group that they would experience God’s love and mercy?

“Go to” for any text

1. What is your biggest take away from this lesson?
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. How will you pray differently as a result of what you learned?
4. What one change will you make in your life from this lesson?
5. What is a key verse for you from this text?
6. So what? Why is this passage important?

Questions to ask Jesus *(Offer these for personal reflection before your group prayer time)*

1. Ask Jesus, “In what relationship am I reluctant to demonstrate your compassion?”
2. Ask Jesus, “Who can I begin to pray for so that my heart becomes more like yours?”