

GROUP DISCUSSION SHEET

Beyond Capacity | Week 1 | November 3rd, 2024

Scripture and Big Idea

Jonah 1 | God's mercy and compassion extend beyond our capacity

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

1. What water activities are your favorite? Have you had any scary incidents on the water?
2. What is your experience with fishing?

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

Warm up: When did you deserve a stiff punishment but received mercy instead? How did you respond?
Was there a question in the Live it Out that you want to discuss further?

Read together Jonah chapter 1: **God's invitation to extend mercy and grace may seem unreasonable.**

1. Historical context is important. What do you know about the relationship between the Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and Israel? (Nahum 1:1-9, 3:1-5) What did Jesus say should be our attitude toward our enemies? (Matthew 5:44)
2. What are some of the possible reasons Jonah might have refused to take the message of repentance to Nineveh? (Jonah 4:2,3) When and why have you resisted God's command to love your "enemies"? Are there other commands you have resisted? Why is it hard to trust some commands?

God's mercy and compassion really are for everyone.

1. Most of this chapter involves the men of the ship and their conversion to faith in Yahweh. List all the ways God controlled the events to show the sailors his power and authority?
2. What truth about God's plan for the nations is being emphasized in the conversion of these sailors? How was Jonah used to bring the men to faith even in the midst of his failures? How does that encourage you?
3. How do you see God's compassion toward Jonah even though he had rebelled? God is a God of second chances. When has God given you a second chance when you failed him at first?

The Holy Spirit empowers us to show God's mercy and compassion to others.

1. When have you been able to offer a second chance to someone who failed you?
2. Read Ephesians 4:32. How does this verse challenge you?
3. Are there some people you have a hard time asking God to bless? Are there some that you truly want to suffer? Will you pray for our team in Mexico City who are ministering to sex traffickers along with the people they harm?

"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?

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

1. Ask Jesus, "Who needs to see God's mercy and compassion through you today?"
2. Ask Jesus, "What undeserving people in your life can you begin to pray for God's blessing?"