

Jonah 4

Discussion Questions

Jonah's angry prayer (*Read Jonah 3:10-4:3*)

1. What is surprising about Jonah's response to God's mercy?
2. Why do you think he is so upset?
3. Dave said that Jonah's anger is a "self-righteous protest toward the way God is running the world."
 - a. Do you ever take issue with what God is doing in your life and the lives of others? If so, why?
 - b. Are there people you don't want God to forgive?
 - c. If so, how do you justify your anger against them?
 - d. What do these things reveal about you?

God's persistent initiative (*Read Jonah 4:4-11*)

4. Jonah is sulking but God continues to pursue him. As Dave put it, he "fine tunes the details of the universe to get the attention of his people." His aim is to "bring Jonah's heart in sync with his own."
 - a. How do God's questions to Jonah achieve this?
 - b. What does this pursuit of Jonah reveal about God? (cf. v.2)
5. What are the circumstances God is bringing to you in order to bring you into sync with his desire to save sinners?

The author's hanging question (*Read Jonah 4:10-11*)

1. Jonah has pity on a plant but is indifferent to the spiritual needs of Nineveh. Do you ever find yourself more moved by trivial things but untouched by the needs of lost people?
2. Jonah ends with a question: should God not pity lost people? (11)
 - a. How would you answer this question?
 - b. Does your life match up with this answer?
 - c. How do we see that pity in the life of Jesus? (Luke 23:34, Mark 6:34)

Prayer Ideas:

- Give thanks for God's grace, shown to you in Jesus.
- Give thanks that he continues to pursue us even when we often sulk in self-righteous anger.
- Pray for God to bring your heart into sync with his, and to fill you with compassion for spiritually lost people (share the names of one or two people you want God's help to love this week).