



South Sub Church

May 3, 2026

God's Relentless Pursuit-The Reveal

Jonah 4 (NIV)

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.² He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."⁴ But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

Sermon Summary:

What if running from God doesn't disqualify you—but actually reveals how far His mercy will go? In this four-week journey through the book of Jonah, we'll discover a God who relentlessly pursues us in our rebellion, meets us in our lowest moments, extends grace to the people we least expect, and challenges the parts of our hearts that resist His compassion. Whether you feel far from God, frustrated with Him, or unsure how you fit into His mission, this series will invite you to see that you can run—but you can't escape His mercy.

Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. How do you usually handle frustration?
2. Have you ever been upset when someone else received grace or forgiveness?
3. How do you cool down when you're angry?
4. Have you ever cared deeply about something temporary?
5. What helps you gain perspective when emotions run high?

Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. How does Jonah respond to God's mercy toward Nineveh (v. 1)?
2. What reason does Jonah give for fleeing earlier (v. 2)?



3. What does Jonah ask God to do in verse 3?
4. How does God respond to Jonah's anger (v. 4)?
5. Where does Jonah go after this (v. 5)?
6. What does God provide for Jonah in verse 6?
7. What happens to the plant in verse 7?
8. How does Jonah react to the plant's destruction (v. 8)?
9. What question does God ask Jonah in verse 9?
10. What lesson does God explain in verses 10–11?

Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. Why is Jonah so angry about Nineveh being spared?
2. What does Jonah's reaction reveal about his heart?
3. Why does God use the plant as an object lesson?
4. What is the significance of Jonah caring more about the plant than people?
5. How does this chapter highlight God's compassion?

Application questions (life response):

1. Are there people or groups you struggle to show compassion toward?
2. How do you respond when God shows mercy to others?
3. How can you align your heart more with God's compassion?
4. What does this chapter challenge about your view of grace?
5. How can you grow in caring about what God cares about?