

The Gospel According to Jonah (4 of 4)  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 28th 2023



**Sermon Series:** The Gospel According to Jonah

**Sermon Title:** Confronting the Jonah in You

**Scripture Reading:** Jonah 4:1-11; Matthew 9:35-38; Romans 9:14-15

**Sermon Focus:** The Ninevites repented of their sins and Jonah is furious! It's in this last chapter that we learn why Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh in the first place. He knew that God is gracious and compassionate—on a mission of mercy to all nations. In the concluding message of our series, Pastor David helps us see the depth of meaning in the final verses and challenges us to apply the message of the book to our own lives.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Jonah 4:1-11 together. As you read, try to remember the things that Pastor David shared with us about this final chapter. What new understanding or insights did you glean from his expository teaching?
2. Read Exodus 34:6-7 together. Jonah quoted this passage to God, but he left off the last part of verse 7. So, not only did Jonah resent God for his grace and compassion, but this also reveals his lack of trust in God's character, specifically that God can be trusted to judge the wicked. It's also funny because Jewish readers would have known that Nineveh was eventually destroyed, highlighting Jonah's lack of faith all the more. But of course, this isn't just about Jonah. It's also about us. Have you ever struggled to trust God's ability to judge evil and hold the wicked accountable? Be honest as you share with your group.
3. Consider the following takeaways from Jonah chapter 4. How have you seen or experienced these to be true? Do you currently struggle with any of these in your walk with Christ? What is God saying to you about each of them?
  - Our own pride, self-centeredness, and hate for our enemies can blind us to God's love
  - God wants us to trust his character and divine wisdom; to let him be our shade/shelter
  - The LORD cares for all people who are made in his image; he even cares for the animals
4. Pastor David said that the main point of Jonah is to expose as shameful something we all engage in but don't want to acknowledge that we do, both with God and with others. And also, to put the question to us: ***"Will we be like God in our mercy, grace, and compassion, or not? Will we join his mission of mercy, or not?"*** How does Jonah's story challenge you personally.
5. Read Matthew 9:35-38 together. Jesus is the complete opposite of Jonah. Jesus' response to the crowds is "compassion"—a co-suffering love. And we can hear in this passage how Jesus wants us to share his heart for the lost and adopt the heart of a shepherd for his sheep. What do you think it takes to have our hearts changed about someone we hate and the way we view a person/people? What do we need to do to see and love people the way Jesus does?
6. What is one main takeaway or thing that God is inviting you to do in response to this sermon series on Jonah? After everyone has shared, take some time to pray for each other as you seek to respond in faithfulness to the voice of the Spirit.