



Week 4
Discipleship Study
Questions



Jonah

Jonah isn't just a prophet on the run — he's a faithful insider whose vision of God is too small. He loves grace when it benefits him, but resists grace when it reaches those he believes deserve judgment. In a culture marked by tribalism, fear, and moral superiority, Jonah confronts the church with a searching question: do we love God's mercy, or only the version of God that supports our identity and comfort?

This series invites the church to examine:

- How we define who deserves grace
- How we respond when God forgives those we resent
- How our theology of justice, mercy, and mission shapes our hearts
- Whether our faith reflects God's compassion or our own boundaries

Jonah confronts a faith that loves grace when it saves us, but resists grace when it saves others. God's unanswered question still echoes today: **"Should I not care about that great city?"**

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 4

Background: Jonah 4 gives us an unexpected ending. After Nineveh repents and God shows mercy, Jonah becomes angry instead of relieved. He is grateful for God's compassion toward himself but frustrated when it is extended to others—and even more upset when God removes a small source of comfort. This chapter invites us to examine our hearts: Do we celebrate God's mercy for everyone, and can we trust Him when comfort is taken away?

Read: *Jonah 4*

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

In verse 2, Jonah admits he knew God was compassionate and merciful. Why would someone resent qualities of God that usually bring comfort?

Jonah is more upset about losing a plant than about an entire city being spared. What does this reveal about his priorities? Where might we see similar misplaced priorities in ourselves?

Jonah is angry that God showed mercy to Nineveh. Why do you think it can be easier to receive grace than to celebrate it being given to others?

The book ends with a question from God rather than a resolution from Jonah. Why do you think Scripture leaves the ending open? What response might it be inviting from us?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Forgive us for the times we gladly receive Your mercy but hesitate to see it extended to others. Soften our hearts where they have grown hard, and realign our priorities where comfort has become more important than compassion. Teach us to trust You not only when You give, but also when You take away, knowing that Your mercy is always at work in us and around us. Help us reflect Your heart to a world that desperately needs grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.