

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Jonah***Chapter 4: Overcoming Prejudice by Compassion***OVERVIEW**

We have to read Jonah in context of the whole story of the Bible – it's not a random moralistic tale haphazardly placed in the middle of a disconnected book. Jonah is part of a larger story, God's story as it's told in God's word. With that in mind, we see that Jonah is not simply about a disobedient prophet and big fish. Jonah shows us God's sovereign mercy and grace that overcomes our rebellion for the glory of his name among the nations. In short, God's boundless compassion swallows up our prejudice for his glory, our gladness and our neighbors good.

**APPLY // JONAH 3**

1. Read Jonah 3.
2. What do you see about God's character in this passage that encourages repentance?
3. How can you take comfort in knowing that God's message is not dependent upon the perfection of the messenger?
4. In this passage we see that God's word brings repentance. Why is this the case? Can you think of examples when God's word has led you to specific repentance?
5. Why it is important to remember that repentance is not a rude intrusion into our lives, but a lavish invitation to enjoy God? How can we strive to remember this truth?

**STUDY // JONAH 4**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Jonah 4.
2. Compare and contrast Jonah's behavior throughout the book. How are we like Jonah?
3. Why is Jonah angry that God relented from judging the Ninevites?
4. Compare Jonah's prayer in 4:2-3 with his prayer in 2:1-9.
  - a. Notice that the expression "my life" occurs in Jonah's first prayer, where he is grateful that his "life" was brought up from the pit (2:6) and his fainting "life/soul" was revived (2:7). Ironically, when God extends the same mercy to the Ninevites, Jonah wishes his "life" and "soul" to be taken.
5. Point out the sovereignty of God in chapter 4. How does this fit with the rest of the book?
6. What do you notice about Jonah's behavior and desires? How are we tempted to act like Jonah?
7. What's the point of God's words in verses 10-11? What does this tell us about God's character? How do God's words here point us to Jesus Christ?

8. What has been most helpful, encouraging or convicting to you throughout our brief Jonah study?
- General Bible study questions:
    - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Discuss how and why repentance leads to joy. Repent where necessary and rejoice in God's grace that eternally satisfies.