

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 18, 2018

Passage: Jonah 4:1-11

Memory Passage: Jonah 4:10-11

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 4:1-11.** Why did Jonah become angry when the Lord relented of his judgement on Nineveh? Wasn't it a prophet's job to call people to repentance, and thus avoid judgement?

(b) What do Jonah's words in verse 2 reveal about his understanding of God's character? Why would Jonah find these things to be offensive?

(c) Why would Jonah complain about God's grace and mercy, when he himself had so recently experienced these blessings after being thrown into the sea? What does this teach us about human nature? What does this teach you about your own nature?

(d) Twice in this chapter we find Jonah praying for God to take his life. Why does he suggest that it would be better to die than live? How does the Lord respond to Jonah's requests to die?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 4:1-11.** What do verses 4, 8 & 9 reveal about the true nature of Jonah's "death wish?"

(b) Why does Jonah decide to set up camp outside the city?

(c) Notice the various things God "appoints" in this 4th chapter of Jonah. What else has God "appointed" in Jonah's life up to this point?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 4:1-11.** Why would God appoint a plant to provide shade and comfort for Jonah; then appoint a worm to attack the plant and make it wither? What lesson should Jonah learn from all this?

(b) What is implied in the words "*do not know their right hand from their left*" in verse 11?

(c) Why are cattle included in the Lord's expression of pity upon Nineveh? (Remember that in chapter 3, the king had ordered both "man" and "beast" to fast and be covered in sackcloth). Can cattle repent?

(d) The word "angry" appears several times in this chapter in reference to Jonah (vs.1, 4, 9). In contrast, Jonah describes God as being "slow to anger." Why is it that Jonah seems to be "quick" to anger; while God is "slow" to anger?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 4:1-11.** How should God's dealings with Jonah and the people of Nineveh inform our view of world missions and evangelism in the 21st century?

(b) How does the fact that God chose to use Jonah in spite of his foolish actions and poor attitudes encourage you in your own life?

(c) How should the account of this "Prodigal Prophet's" failures and shortcomings inform our view of ministry in the local church today?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jonah 4:1-11.** What are some ways that people today respond to God in a similar fashion as Jonah did?

(b) What have you learned from the study of Jonah's life thus far that might help you to respond positively to God's commandments and directions for your life?

(c) What lessons can we learn from Jonah's example regarding the sovereignty of God and human responsibility?

DATE: February 18, 2018

PASSAGE: Jonah 4:1-11

Anger, Pity and Deliverance of a City