



JONAH Table Talks

Week 4 · The Unfinished Ending · Jonah 4

4 Things You Need to Know About Jonah 4

Jonah ends on a question, and God leaves it open on purpose. Here are four things to know.

1. You can obey God without having His heart.

Jonah preached, and a whole city repented. Then Jonah got furious. The same Hebrew word for “evil” describes Nineveh’s sin, God’s planned judgment, and how Jonah saw God’s mercy (3:10; 4:1). He quoted God’s character perfectly (4:2) with a cold heart.

2. God answers our anger with questions, not lightning.

“Is it right for you to be angry?” God asks it twice (4:4, 9). Jonah’s only joy in the whole book is a shade plant. Everything in this story obeys God except the prophet. The shade was never the point. It was a classroom.

3. God’s heart breaks for the people ours has written off.

Jonah pitied a plant he never planted. God pities a city of 120,000 lost people (4:10–11). Jacob DeShazer, a POW tortured in Japan, went back with the gospel, and Mitsuo Fuchida, who led the Pearl Harbor attack, came to Christ through his story. The patience that saved you is waiting on them (2 Peter 3:9).

4. The ending is open because it’s your turn.

Jesus ended the prodigal son the same way. The older brother stands outside the party, and we never learn if he goes in (Luke 15:28–32). Jonah sat outside the city waiting for fire. Jesus went outside the city and took the fire (Hebrews 13:12). We are both the Jonah who got mercy and the Ninevite who never earned it.

KEY VERSE

“Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great city?”

Jonah 4:11 NLT

Read this week: Jonah 4:1–11 · Luke 15:11–32 · 2 Peter 3:9 · Hebrews 13:12 · Matthew 12:40–41

LET’S TALK

God’s last word in Jonah is a question, and it’s meant for us. As we finish the story.

1. Last week we talked about second chances. Do you feel you made use of any that God gave you?
2. What’s a TV or movie ending that drove you crazy? Why do unfinished stories bother us?
3. Read **Jonah 4:1–2**. Jonah knew God’s heart yet still burned with anger. Is there an area in your life where you sometimes feel you may be doing the right thing with the wrong heart?
4. Read **Jonah 4:6–9**. What kinds of “shade” (comforts) are easy to protect? What might help us care about lost souls as much?
5. God answered Jonah’s anger with a question, not lightning. What might that tell us about how God receives our frustrations?
6. Read **Jonah 4:10–11** and **2 Peter 3:9**. What makes it hard to feel sorry for people we have written off? How might remembering the patience that saved us help?
7. Read **Luke 15:28–32**. Jonah and the older brother both end outside the party. What do you think it would take to walk in?
8. Close by praying this together: *Father, thank You that You are gracious and slow to anger. Break our hearts for what breaks Yours, and give us Your heart for every Nineveh in our lives. Amen.*

This week: **Name** your Nineveh by writing one name on your phone. **Pray** for them every day, not that they get what they deserve, but that they meet what you met. **Move** toward them with a text, a coffee, or an invitation to Trunk & Treat on October 31. Come ready to share what happened.

NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS