

Small Group Discussion Questions - Winter Semester // Week Two

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) What are a few of your favourite winter activities? If you have to spend an afternoon outside in January, how would you spend your time?
- b) If you could pick one fictional world or place to visit, what would it be? Who are the three people that you would take with you?

Passage and Discussion

Read Jonah 1:1-3

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) At the beginning of this message, Cam reminded us that this is not a book about Jonah and a fish: it's a story about God and Jonah. As you have reflected on the Book of Jonah during this past week, how does this view change the way that we understand this book?
- c) On Sunday, we were reminded that the Bible is the "Word of the Lord" that has come to us. How have you viewed the Bible throughout your life? How should understanding it as the Word of God change the way that we read it?
- d) We often think that we need to wait for God to 'speak' to us in our own lives, but as Cam taught on Sunday, God has clearly spoken to us through the Word. Have you walked through a season where you were waiting for God to speak? Why do you think that sometimes we want God to speak directly to us, rather than simply reading the Word?
- e) As with God's Word to Jonah, the Bible is clear to us about God's will for us. Would you agree with this statement? What do you think prevents us from understanding the Bible clearly? Do you agree that sometimes we pretend not to understand the Bible so we don't have to obey it?
- f) On Sunday, Cam shared a quote that said "we spend our time chasing after and hoping for a word from God, but what we fail to do is to look into the word of God". Have you walked through a season in your life when you struggled with this? How do you think we move towards understanding the Bible as God's will for our lives?

- g) On Sunday, we heard a list of examples of scripture passages that reveal God's will for our lives. What are some scripture passages that come to your mind that you would say are central to living out the will of God?
- h) If you're comfortable sharing, what's one teaching in Scripture that you have struggled with in the past? Was the problem that you did not understand the teaching, or that you simply found it difficult to be obedient? How did you learn to grow in obedience to God's Word?
- i) As Cam taught on Sunday, Jonah had "good excuses" for not being obedient to God's will for his life. Can you relate to this idea: have you wrestled with feeling like you had "good excuses" for not following God's Word?
- j) How does community (like this Small Group) help us to be obedient to God's Word in our lives? How can we hold each other accountable to living according to God's will for our lives (as revealed through the Bible)?
- k) While we should work towards growing in obedience in our lives, we will make mistakes. As a group, discuss the importance of reminding ourselves (and each other) of God's grace. How does His grace empower us to walk in freedom and obedience in our lives?
- a) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, take time to reflect on whether there is an area of your life where God is asking you to be obedient through His Word. Are there any areas where you have been running from God? Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient immediately, instead of ignoring Him.
- b) This week, reflect on whether or not you are taking time throughout your daily life to read and learn from God's Word. Ask God to reveal to you if there is anything in your life that is preventing you from regularly spending time reading the Bible.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) Pray that each person in your group would have a renewed desire for i) reading and learning from God's Word, and ii) being obedient to God's Will for our lives, as revealed through Scripture.