

## Small Group Discussion Questions - Winter Semester // Week Ten

*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) Do you have a favourite plant/flower? Would you consider a good gardener? If not, what is one of your favourite outdoor activities in the spring?
- b) If you had to give a thirty minute speech on any topic right now, which topic would you choose? How did you learn so much about this subject?

### Passage and Discussion

#### Read Jonah 4:10-11

- 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) As we review our series on the Book of Jonah, what have been a few verses/teachings that were significant to you? How have you been challenged by this sermon series?
- c) Were you surprised by how the Book of Jonah ended? What is surprising to you about how this book ends? Why do you think that the author chose to end the book in this way?
- d) On Sunday, Cam taught that the ending of the Book of Jonah invites us to answer the question that is asked to Jonah: "is God, in His sovereignty, free to do as He sees fit?" How would you answer this question? How have you wrestled with this question in your own life?
- e) The ending of the Book of Jonah reminds us that God will always have the last word. What does this mean to you in your own life? How can we find comfort and peace in this truth?
- f) We are also reminded, through this passage, that God does not owe us anything; that He does not answer to us. Tell us about a time in your life when you struggled with this truth. Why can it be difficult for us to submit to God's sovereignty? How can we grow in this area?
- g) In this passage, we learn that Jonah had more concern for the plant than for the people in Nineveh. What are examples of things we find ourselves caring about more than the people around us? Why do you think that we sometimes get our priorities in the wrong place?
- h) On Sunday, Cam said that "we are invited to join God in putting those He created in His image first". What is an area in your life where you need to grow in valuing other people? What are the excuses that you've used in the past to justify not valuing others?

- i) **Read 1 John 3:16-20.** What does this passage teach us about valuing other people? How can we grow in our ability to love with actions, not simply with words?
- j) How should our understanding of the grace of God lead us to compassion for the people around us who do not know Christ? Why do you think that we are sometimes more concerned with people's morality, instead of helping them know God on a personal level?
- k) Had you considered the fact that this book was written by Jonah himself, even though it does not show him in a favourable way? What does this possibility tell us about the humility that we should have in glorifying God, even in our weaknesses?
- l) As you look back on this sermon series, what are a few practical changes that you have/will make in your everyday life? How can this Small Group support you as you continue to grow in your personal relationship with God?
- m) 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, ask God to help you have the same heart that He does for the people around you in your everyday life; that you would love each person as He does. Ask Him to work through you to be the hands and feet of Christ.
- b) This week, spend a few minutes praying that God would help you to trust His sovereignty in your everyday life. Ask Him to help you remember that even when you are walking through a hard season, He can be trusted.

### **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) As a group, pray that God would help each person in your group continue to reflect on the teachings/themes in the Book of Jonah. Ask Him to continue to work in each person, through what we've learned in this series, to become more like Christ.