

Small Group Discussion Questions - Winter Semester // Week Three

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) If someone were to ask you: "what is the best thing that is happening in your life right now?", how would you answer? What is something worth celebrating in your life today?
- b) What is one food that you love that other people tend to dislike? What do you love about this food? How do people usually react when they find out that you like it?

Passage and Discussion

Read Jonah 1:4-6

- 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) If you feel comfortable sharing, as you reflected on last Sunday's message during your week, what is one area of your life where you feel that you are being called to obedience? What changes will you make to your life as a result of God's Word?
- c) On Sunday, Cam began his message by reminding us that God will always accomplish His will, even when we are disobedient. How does understanding God's sovereignty lead to peace and trust in our lives? How should God's sovereignty lead us to obedience?
- d) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that the storm that Jonah experienced on the sea was sent by God. Do you find this truth surprising? What does this teach us about God's pursuit of us, even when we try to run away from Him?
- e) Our sin brings 'storms' into our own lives, as well as into the lives of the people around us. What are a few examples of this happening in Scripture? What are a few examples of times that sin brought storms into the lives of people in the Bible?
- f) Although we often think of 'storms' as harmful, they can help us to grow deeper in our relationship with God and in our obedience to Him. Share about a time in your life when you walked through a 'storm', and that season helped you to grow closer to God.
- g) **Read James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7 and Romans 5:3-5.** What do these passages tell us about difficulties that we experience? What are a few ways that we can grow as a result of storms in our lives?

- h) On Sunday, Cam reminded us that, though we have grace and forgiveness through Christ, we are often oblivious to the harm our sin can cause to ourselves or to other people. How do you think we can grow to take sin more seriously in our lives?
- i) In **v6**, Jonah is encouraged to 'cry out to God'. What is one way that you can cry out to God on behalf of those you know who do not, themselves, know God?
- j) Read **Luke 8:22-25**. Compare and contrast this story with the story of Jonah's storm? How are they similar, how are they different?
- k) 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 a few minutes to reflect on the 'storms' that you are walking through in your life right now. Though they may not be from God, ask Him to help you grow deeper in your relationship with Him through this season of your life.
- b) On Sunday, we learned about how sin brings difficulty in our lives (though not every storm is the result of sin). This week, take a few minutes to confess your sin to God; be honest with Him, and ask Him to remind you of the forgiveness that you have through Christ.

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 each person would be reminded about God's sovereignty, and that each of us would walk in greater obedience to God. Give space for people in your group to share if there is an area of their life where they feel they are being called to greater obedience.

Upcoming Events

- a) This **Thursday, January 4**, we are having an online church-wide prayer meeting at **8PM!** The prayer time will be led by the Elders of the church. Come with your requests and join us as we lift our concerns to God. The meeting link will be sent out in an e-mail this week - please contact the church if you do not receive it by Thursday evening.