

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **The Book of Jonah**

TITLE: **Amazing Grace**

BIG IDEA: Grace is so amazing because it is so scandalous. We don't deserve it, yet the father throws us a party.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read **Jonah 4:5-6**

Do you think Jonah knew the purpose of the vine and that it's shade would be short lived?

How can our desire for comfort cause us to stray from the call God has on our lives?

Read **Jonah 4:7-9**

Jonah is deeply upset when the plant dies, but he has been angry that God spared Nineveh. What does this contrast reveal about Jonah's heart?

Read **Jonah 4:10-11**

Why do you think God gives Jonah an explanation of why he did what he did? What does this reveal about his heart from those who are far from him?

What does that show us about where the Lord has placed us?

Read **Matthew 5:43-46**

Why is loving your enemy a foundational principal for Christ Followers?

How does our love for those who don't love us back a picture of what Christ has done for us?

Read **Luke 15:25-32**

What similarities do you see between the older brother and Jonah?

How do you see Jesus as a greater Jonah? What did Jesus do that Jonah refused to do?

When you hear the story of the Lost Son in Luke 15, who do you relate with: the younger son or the older brother? Why do you think the younger son rejected the love of the Father? Why do you think the older brother didn't believe the Father had enough love to forgive his little brother?

How does forgiveness in the church family make it stronger? How does it make us more like Jesus?

Do church families show the scandalous grace of the Father for those who come into our churches or do we have the hostility of the older brother?

Jonah cared more about a plant than the people of Nineveh. What do often care more about that people around us who are in need of Christ?

How would those outside the church walls respond if we actually lived the way Jesus tells us Matthew 5, forgiving others, loving our enemies and pray for those who persecute us? Would they be shocked by our actions or expect it?

GROWING IN CHRIST

LIVING AS A FAMILY

SHARING THE GOSPEL