

Lesson Title: The Prophet Jonah

Scripture Focus: Jonah 4:11

The Lesson in Context

That last verse in the Book of Jonah summarizes the entire book. While God waited for Jonah to answer that question, God Himself already had answered it through His actions. He spared Jonah's life and was willing to hear him when he cried out from the depths of his despair. While God did save Jonah's life, it was partly so he would preach to Nineveh, so Nineveh would repent, and God would forgive. The Lord was leaving the window of mercy open to the Ninevites.

As people of God's New Covenant, we must live out our mission of mercy with all who need mercy. Yes we live in a wicked world, but so did Jonah. While wickedness was going up to God, God's mercy was coming down to humanity. Because we do not understand God's love at times, sometimes we magnify sin more than God's mercy. We become like Jonah, a quasi-prophet, and a contradiction of the very good news we preach and teach. Jonah confessed that God mercifully saved his life, but when God wanted to use Jonah to help save others, Jonah became angry. Thankfully, God is patient and willing to show us mercy when we struggle to understand why He chooses to operate in the manner He does. May God baptize all of us with a fresh revelation of the vast richness of His mercy.

Group Discussion

1. Why are we sometimes reluctant concerning an assignment God gives us?
2. How do you keep from feeling disqualified from God using you?
3. What steps could you take to help you grant mercy to someone who has wronged you?
4. What mission does God have for you to carry out? If you're not already obeying, what will you do today to obey?
5. What actionable steps can you take to live out your mission of sharing God's mercy?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
