

Sermon Discussion Questions

Jonah: There Will Be A Lot Of Jonahs (Week 4)

– Matt Slocum

27 August 2023

Sermon Text: Jonah 4:1-11

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

This week we wrapped up our Jonah series looking at Jonah chapter 4. We will be examining ourselves to see if there is any offense we have allowed to come into our life and keep us from walking in true freedom. Jesus took it all at the cross while we were still sinners. He did not allow the offenses of people to keep Him from fulfilling His mission. Are you on the path God has for you or have you allowed others' actions to derail you and get you off course?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week we were challenged to learn one new skill this year. Did anything make your list? What have you decided to try and learn this year?
2. What is something that stood out to you from this message? From this sermon series on Jonah?
3. What reason did Jonah give for fleeing to Tarshis in the first place (Jonah 4:2)? (*Note: Jonah is quoting from Exodus 34:6-7, where it says, "... the Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."*) Does Jonah's reason for running away conflict with why you originally thought he didn't want to go to Ninevah?
4. God makes a plant to grow to shield Jonah from the harsh sun and Jonah is grateful. Jonah loves the plant. It is all he has going on for him in the world. But then God uses a little worm to kill the plant and He sends a hot so it shrivels and dies. (The funny thing about what happens here is that it is in stark contrast to what happened previously. Big storm, huge fish, but now a tiny worm.)

What is Jonah's response when this happens?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. For you, what is the sign that Fall has arrived?
2. What is one thing you wish you knew how to do?
3. Besides the bible, what is one book you would encourage everyone to read? Why?

Do you have any “plants” in your life? Things that you care for more than the people around you or what God has called you to?

5. The book of Jonah is really about you and me. God asks us, “can I not show compassion?” In fact, that’s the heart of the gospel. While we were sinners, enemies of God, He still loved us. How do we respond when God is showing love and compassion to our enemies?

6. There will be a lot of Jonahs in our world. People who carry bitterness, anger, hatred. Jonah picked up the offense of his people. What offenses have you picked up? How do we become defined by the offenses we carry around? What should define us?

APPLICATION

This week, look and see if there are things, people, or issues where you have become offended. Have you picked up and carry those offenses? If you have identified any offenses you have picked up, seek out someone to help you pray and release those offenses. Being offended has no place in your life. Let them go. The challenge today is to stop being Jonah.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on at NWC, go to <https://nwckc.com> or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Study materials are also available on the website or Facebook page.

Financial Peace University, 5 Sep-14 Nov, Tuesday Evenings, 6-8 pm, New Wine Church, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO. Sign up at: <https://subspla.sh/b38mww2/>

Men’s Breakfast, 9 September, 9-11 am, New Wine Church, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO

Men’s Retreat, 13-14 October, New Wine Church, 7102 N. Prospect Ave, Gladstone, MO (more details to follow)

FINAL THOUGHT

**“You don’t have the right to be right.
You have the right to love, and if you love, you will be right.”**

Kim May