



Comparing Attitudes

**Do we rejoice in
mercy or resent it?**

■ SERIES SUMMARY

■ Most people know Jonah as the story of a runaway prophet and a great fish. But Jonah is far more than a children's story. It is a story about reluctant obedience, unexpected mercy, and God's relentless pursuit. As we explore this remarkable little book together, we'll find that God is not only pursuing Nineveh or even Jonah—He is patiently shaping the hearts of all who are willing to follow Him.

■ As we compare Jonah's story with the life and teachings of Jesus, we'll discover that God's greatest work isn't just changing our circumstances—it's changing us.

■ ICEBREAKER

■ Who would typically win the "best attitude" award in your family?

■ SCRIPTURE

■ **JONAH:** Jonah 4

■ **GOSPEL:** Matthew 20:1-16



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. Can you relate to Jonah's and the workers' sense of unfairness?
2. What can we learn from the questions God & the landowner ask in Jonah 4:9-11 & Matthew 20:13-15?
3. What do we learn about God's heart in these stories?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. What do we learn about our own hearts in these stories?
5. When is it hardest for you to celebrate someone else's success or blessing?
6. What tends to be the outcome when you compare yourself to others?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. Can you think of anything that has historically helped you break out of bad attitudes?
8. Which practice might be most helpful to you in cultivating the Father's generous heart and why: praying for someone else's blessing or giving thanks for your blessings?
9. Jonah wanted justice for Nineveh; God wanted mercy. Where might God be inviting you to exchange resentment for compassion?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, give us soft hearts that are quick to listen, quick to repent, and eager to follow wherever You lead. Amen.

