

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 1/28/2024

Jonah 4

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- Recap: Jonah is a story ABOUT a prophet, a story of opposites
 - We've seen the same three things in the first three chapters, first by the sailors, then by Jonah, then by the Ninevites:
 - We must fear the Lord
 - We must offer ourselves as a sacrifice
 - I surrender ALL of myself to God
 - We must make vows
 - Here's my promise to you, God as we move forward together
 - **Discuss how you have shown fear of the Lord, surrendered yourself, and/or made vows over the last three weeks.**
- **Jonah 3:10** what they did = behavior, how they turned = heart
 - Your behavior alone will not get the attention of God and your heart alone will not get the attention of God.
- **Jonah 4:1** God is saving people, and Jonah is angry.
 - **Have you ever been angry when God has done something "good?"**
 - Anger stems from unmet expectations
 - Jonah's expectation was that even though he told the Ninevites what God asked him to tell them that God would still destroy them. He hated them that much.
 - When people hear the truth, the Gospel, lives change.
 - Jonah is saying, I hate how good you are, God. I want something different from you. I know you're in control, but..."
 - **Share a time you said to God, "I know you're in control, but why did you to xyz this way?"**
- **Jonah 4:3-5** Jonah was so angry he just wanted to die.
 - **Have you ever been so angry, you felt it would be better to not be here; to die?**
 - God asked a question. Questions build relationships, statements shut people down.
 - **How have you seen this at work?**
 - Jonah didn't answer and went east (In Scripture, moving east is moving toward evil) and built a shelter.
 - By his actions, he's saying, "I'll take care of myself. God, you're not doing it the way I want you to, so I've got it." **What about you?**
- **Jonah 4:6** God provided a plant for shelter
 - Jonah must have been bad at building a shelter. WE are bad at "building shelters," at being in control.
 - **Talk about a time you didn't take control very well, and God went ahead and showed up anyway.**
 - Jonah was happy with the plant, not with God (or what He did).
 - He was worshipping creation instead of the Creator.
 - **Have you ever found yourself doing this?**
 - While we are rebellious people, the Lord provides.
- **Jonah 4:7-8** Jonah may be dramatic but he's probably struggling right now. The scorching wind is painful; so painful, he wanted to die – AGAIN!

- **Jonah 4:9** God asks another question. Jonah is angry because he has no control over his life anymore.
 - He's saying, if I'm not in control, I should just die
 - **The truth is, we ARE supposed to die – to ourselves.**
 - Who we are is defined by how we handle pain and blessing.
 - God is God in the blessings (plant), in loss (the worm), and in deep pain (the sun and wind).
 - **HE IS STILL GOD**
 - **How has God moved in your life in the blessings, the loss and the pain?**
- **Jonah 4:10-11** God is saying, “remember that plant you didn't create, let me tell you about the people I did create.
 - God desires a relationship with YOU.
 - God desires a relationship with YOUR ENEMIES.
 - **How do you feel about this? What does this mean for you?**
 - The ultimate response of God to His Creation is sending Jesus to save it.
- What happens to Jonah? It doesn't matter!
 - The question is... **What is happening to you??**