

JONAH 4 – SURPRISED BY GRACE

v.1-4 – The Twist

v.5-8 – The Appointing

v.9-11 – The Question

Three Questions For Us

1. What do your emotions (what "displeases you exceedingly" and/or what makes you "exceedingly glad") reveal about what actually has your heart and devotion?

2. What circumstances has God "appointed" in your life to help bring to light what is out of alignment with Him?

3. Are we happy to receive God's sheer undeserved grace, yet unwilling to accept that He extends the same to others – especially those whom we think deserve it least?



Prayer

Open in prayer and ask the Lord to guide you. Invite everyone share one "high" and one "low" from their week.

My Story

When you were a child, how did you react when something didn't go your way? Share a brief story.

Digging Deep

- 1) When was the last time you obeyed God, but your emotions lagged behind? How do you feel when good things happen to people that you don't like?
- 2) Read Jonah 3:10-4:3. What was Jonah's main reason for being angry? How does this explain his behavior throughout the story? Given the size of the city, the message to be proclaimed, and what you know about God, how would you have felt?
- 3) Read Jonah 4:3-9. What is God trying to teach Jonah through the plant, the worm and the hot sun? Come up with at 2—3 interpretations and discuss as a group.

Digging Deeper

- 4) Have you ever felt entitled to God's blessings as a child of God, and then upset when those blessings didn't happen the way you wanted them to? How can we align our hearts to be more grateful, rather than angry?
- 5) Read Jonah 4:10-11. Discuss what God is concerned about versus what Jonah is concerned about. How does this help summarize this story as a whole?

6) Jonah cared more about his comfort and self-righteousness rather than the lives and salvation of those he viewed as enemies. In what ways do we express the same behavior?

Taking it Home

- 7) What do your personal emotions reveal about what has your attention and devotion?
- 8) What circumstances has God placed in your life that brings attention to the contrast between your priorities for your own life versus God's priorities for His creation?
- 9) Spend time in prayer. Are there times when you are happy to receive God's sheer undeserved grace, yet unwilling to accept that He extends the same to others? Is there anyone (or a group of people) whom you would be upset if their life became one of repentance and following Jesus? To whom is God wanting you to show mercy?
- 10) How has God challenged you in your study of Jonah in the last four weeks?

Praying Together

Pray for those who you listed in the question above. Pray together for repentance in our own hearts as we seek to become vessels of God's amazing grace to others.