

eGroup Questions

February 23, 2020

Verse: Jonah 1:1-17

PRAY

Begin your group study with an opening prayer. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who serves as a teacher as you gather.

REVIEW

What truth did you discover in the previous lesson? Did it transform how you live your life in any way? Even if it was small.

CONNECT

In this lesson, we are looking at the book of Jonah. As a group, share your thoughts on the following questions.

Have you ever experienced a time when you experienced serious spiritual apathy? How would you define what that looked and felt like? What happened to move you past it?

OBSERVE

Read your selected passage out loud as a group. While you read, take note of details, words, or phrases that jump off the page. Take a moment to share your findings with the group.

DISCUSS

For many of us, the story of Jonah is very familiar because we've heard it many times growing up in Sunday School or from our parents. After reading this portion of scripture, did you notice any new information or perspectives about the book of Jonah?

The Assyrians (Nineveh) is an exceedingly evil and corrupt nation. They end up taking 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel into captivity with brutal force and destruction. What does it show about God and his heart of forgiveness, sending Jonah to Nineveh? What can we learn from God's example? What does it look like to have mercy on our enemies? How do we apply that to our everyday life?

Jonah decides it's best to run to Tarshish in an attempt to escape the calling of God to preach in Nineveh. While on his trip, he meets a group of sailors of a different religious background. Who are the *sailors* in your context, and how should our church engage with them? Do you know anyone personally that holds a different religious viewpoint or worldview?

Jonah displays themes of religious pride, to the point where he's opposed to obeying God's calling to bring the message of repentance and judgment to the people of Nineveh. Are there ways we are similar to Jonah? Are there people, places, or situations that you know God has called you to speak?

After the people of Nineveh repent and turn to God, Jonah shows a great deal of spiritual apathy when Jonah 4:1 says, "But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry." Can we, as God's people miss what God is doing at times? In what ways does this apathy look like in the church? Are there times when God's direction appears obvious, but we still don't want to take it? What do we as God's people do in these kinds of situations?

MAIN IDEA

In one to three sentences, summarize your main take-away from this lesson. Share your thoughts with the group.

PRAY

Now that you have finished your study, take this opportunity to pray together as a group. Feel free to collect any prayer needs from the group members.