

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What are some things over which you have been extremely angry only later to find out you were wrong about injustice being committed toward you?
 - a. What was driving your original perspective on the situation? What later information helped you to think differently?
2. When have you been angry with the Lord about unfulfilled dreams or missed expectations? What was your original hope that went unfulfilled?
 - a. Why was that expectation so significant to you at that period of your life?
3. When have you failed to express righteous anger—moral outrage or a cry for justice—over an occupational, familial, communal, or church issue, realizing in hindsight you should have made your voice known?
 - a. Why is it sometimes difficult to express righteous anger when there has been a social miscue but easy to express unrighteous anger over mild discomforts?
 - b. What truths about Christ do we need to embrace in order to grow in rightly expressing anger?
4. Name a recent experience in which you rejoiced in the Lord's grace, mercy, or patience toward you. Why did you need such grace, mercy, or patience? How did you feel about the Lord when you had this experience?
5. Almost every sovereign country has another nation of people that identifies itself as enemies. Think of an enemy of our home country. What are your feelings toward the people of that nation as a whole? How would you feel about a member of that nation moving next door to you, marrying your child, or becoming an elected official in your municipality? What does Jonah teach you about how you might view tolerance toward such nations and peoples as a follower of Christ?
6. What has been your response to people within your congregation who have experienced long-term despair or maybe even suicidal thoughts? What sort of practical, faithful, compassionate acts might turn them from their despair? What acts from Christian friends have been most helpful to your moments of greatest despair?
7. Consider the following verses in Jonah: 1:17; 4:6, 7, 8. These verses reveal the Lord "appointed" an event four times. What attributes of God do such events reveal? In what realms of the created order does God reveal these attributes in Jonah?
8. Consider again Jonah 4:6, 7, 8. Is it normal for the Lord to appoint events and causes of natural "evil," such as the hurling of the violent wind (1:4), the scorching wind, and devouring of the plant? How should one view events of natural evil within the will of the Creator? (See also Job 5:9–10; 28:26; Isa 45:7; 50:2; Nah 1:3–5; Mark 4:39–41.)