

GROUP QUESTIONS: Jonah Wk 5 w/ Pastor Mindy

Announcements:

Easter Egg Hunt at 10am Sunday, March 26

Pride Interest Meeting after service next week - March 26

Game Night coming up on Saturday, April 1

1. If you could live anywhere in the world for one year, where would it be?
2. Take a minute to summarize with your group the main point of the message from Sunday and/or briefly share what stood out to you the most.
3. In the story of Jonah people do unexpected things. For example the prophet runs away from God while the pagans make vows to God, offer sacrifices and repent. Why do you think the author of Jonah might have chosen to upset the norm in this book? Why write a story that has characters doing the opposite of what they normally do?
4. Twice in chapter 4 Jonah wishes to die. What were the two times and why do you think he felt so strongly each time? (4:3 and 4:8b)
5. Both times Jonah wishes for death God responds with a question. What is God's question for Jonah? What do you think is significant about God's response to Jonah? (4:4 and 4:8)
6. Although we didn't talk much in the message about the worm, why do you think God might have sent the worm and then the wind down on Jonah? (4:7.8)
7. Just like we sometimes get stuck in traffic or long lines and can't get where we want to go or make things happen the way we would like

them to. Sometimes we get stuck emotionally. Jonah seems to have mercy and love for the Ninevites stuck and jammed up in him. He can't let the love of God flow through him for the Ninevites and he ends up miserable. Can you think of times when the mercy and love of God is hindered from flowing through you to others? Times when you might get stuck in anger towards someone and be unable to move on? What things keep you stuck from offering mercy to others?

8. Mindy offered three suggestions for ways to handle times when the love or mercy of God seems jammed up in you and unable to be shared with others.
 - a. Be honest with yourself and with God. Go toe to toe with God.
Wrestle this out! Be real!
 - b. Listen for how God is moving.
 - c. As you listen, accept that this is hard. Name it for what it is.

Do any of these stand out to you? Do you have any ideas on how to navigate times when God's mercy gets stuck in you?