

GROUP QUESTIONS: Jonah Wk 4 w/ Pastor Mindy

Announcements:

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 26

Game Night coming up on Saturday, April 1

1. When you were a kid what did you want to be when you grew up?
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. Is there a lesson or idea from the Jonah series that is standing out to you or sticking with you?
4. The Ninevites responded to God with full repentance that included both ritual and behavior. (Jonah 3:4-10) Describe how this attitude was different from the Israelites' attitude as seen in Jeremiah. (Jer. 7:1-11)
5. In Jeremiah God calls the Israelites out for their two faced way of living. In Jer. 7:6, 7 God says, "...if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever." Then in verse 8-11 He continues, "Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are safe!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? ...You know, I too am watching, says the Lord." How might the Israelites' way of living keep them from dwelling/ being close with God?

6. The Israelites are not living in a whole, integrated way of life. They are saying things in one space that do not align with what they are doing in other spaces. This feels like a typical human experience. How might this way of living hinder us from connecting with not only God but others too? Why might people struggle with an integrated, more whole way of living?

7. Mindy suggested that the Jonah story may show us what God wants in relationships with people. She suggested that God wants our whole self. God doesn't want fluff or our fake self or even good people. God wants our whole self. How does this land for you? Does this feel comforting or scary to you? Do you struggle with this?