

## Jonah in Anger

*Ice Breaker:* As a Christian, how should we respond to someone who is standing on the corner holding a sign and wanting money to buy food?

**Read:** Jonah 3:10 – 4:4

1. According to 3:10, what do you believe Jonah's response should have been when Nineveh repented of their evil ways and turned to God? Why?
2. What was Jonah's bizarre response to God's amazing grace in verse 1? (He was anything but happy / Jonah burned in displeasure towards God.)
3. In verse 2, do you find it unusual that Jonah would even want to pray and share his shameful feelings towards God about His kindness? (Why or Why Not)
4. It would appear that Jonah knew all about the character of God in verse 2 and yet He was angry for God being God. Do we do this today in our own lives? How so?

**Observation:** It would appear that many of us have a great knowledge of theology and the Scriptures but living out what we know is a much different story.

5. What does a *lack of love* in our hearts for our enemies actually reveal about our relationship with God?

Can you think of places in Scripture where the *religious* failed to show love? (Story of Good Samaritan in Luke 10:31-32 / The Church in 1 Corinthians 11 when the rich shunned the poor prior to communion)

6. How angry was Jonah about God's amazing grace? (v. 3) He was angry enough to die.

Note the irony that in chapter 2 Jonah prayed that God would let him live and provide a second chance and now Jonah prays that God would take his life. Why the change so soon?

7. What is God's gracious response to this judgmental servant in verse 4? (How is Jonah to answer this rhetorical question? –There is no good answer. God is God and Jonah is not!

➤ **Consider the story of the prodigal son.... Luke 15:11-32**

- A father has two sons and blesses them with an inheritance before he dies.
- The younger leaves his father and wastes all that he has and lives a reckless life.
- After hitting rock bottom in life and having nothing to even eat, he returns home to repent and to find mercy from his father.
- His father welcomes him and restores him into the family and celebrates his homecoming. His father blesses him with many good things and throws a party.
- The oldest son is offended, set back, and wants nothing to do with restoration celebration—the oldest son was angry at his father showing love and mercy.
- DO WE EVER BEGRUDGE God for showing love & mercy to those we dislike?