



Community Group Study: Jonah

Getting Started

As a teen, when you were told to do something you didn't want to do, were you more likely to:

- a) obey out of fear of the consequences
- b) ignore the command
- c) make excuses for why you didn't obey
- d) run and hide until the coast was clear
- e) say "okay" but conveniently forget
- f) outwardly comply but inwardly rebel or
- g) willingly obey because you respected their authority and trusted their judgment?

What are some things that God asks us to do, in the Bible, that seem unreasonable or difficult to obey? In his mind, Jonah had legitimate reasons for not wanting to preach to the Ninevites.

Describe a time when you disobeyed God's direction and faced the consequences.

Share something God asked you to do that you didn't want to do, but you did. What was the result?

What does our running from God reveal about our concept of God?

God may send a storm to grab your attention. What kind of storms has God used in the past (or present) to get your attention?

Read Jonah's prayer in Jonah 2:1-10.

What elements do you see in his prayer? (example: thanksgiving, repentance, cry for help, etc.)

Why is prayer often our last resort? Share one or two words that would best describe how you view prayer?

On a scale of 1-10, rate your prayer life. What would make your prayer life more meaningful?

On a scale of 1-10, what level of distress do you have to reach before you cry out to God? God can deliver people of anything, in any way, and at any time. But He often does it in phases.

Why do you think God often waits till the last minute to deliver us?

What do you think Jonah learned about God through his experience?

Where does Jonah show hope in God's deliverance in spite of his situation? (2:4, 6-7, 9)
Compare verse 3 with 1:15. How do you think Jonah is viewing his circumstances? God's control?
God's purposes?

Why do you think the Ninevites were so quick to repent and believe God?
What has God shown you that you need to do, but you have not yet done?

What percentage of your anger comes from not getting what you want?
How do you generally express your anger? (pout, yell, punish, withdraw, stuff it, take it out on others,
become irritable, silent, etc.) How comfortable are you telling God when you are angry?

What was the main reason for Jonah's anger? With whom was he angry?
How did Jonah handle his anger? Why did he run from God the first time he was told to go to Nineveh?
What does Jonah believe about God? (4:3)

Life is not about us. Only God has the right to judge others (or a nation) and the power to control
outcomes. How was Jonah's anger related to his trying to be God, concerning Nineveh?

What do the vine, worm, and hot sun reveal about God? About Jonah? (4:6-8)
Did Jonah have a right to be angry about the vine?
What lesson was God trying to teach Jonah, through the vine?
What do you think God meant when He said the Ninevites couldn't tell their left hand from their right?