

# JONAH, JESUS, AND US

## Week 5: The Story of Him and Us

### APPETIZER: Reasons Why Jonah is Crying

God was in control (v.1)  
He didn't get what he wanted (v.2)  
God is loving and compassionate (v.2)  
He still hopes God will destroy the Ninevites. (But He doesn't) (v.5)  
He was hot, uncomfortable and God wasn't making him feel any better (v.8)  
His plant died (v.9)

### DINE IN: I Told You So

#### Jonah 4

Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. (v 2)

The God of compassion: **Exodus 34:6**  
**Neh 9:17, Ps. 86:15, Ps 103:8, 145:8, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2,**

A covenant people...again: **Exodus 34:10**

Jesus brings a new covenant for all people:  
**Jeremiah 31:33-34, Hebrew 8:6-13**

### Third time's the charm:

"Is it right for you to be angry?"

"Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"You have been concerned about this plant though you did not tend to it, or make it grow..."

"We can take the deepest comfort in knowing that God knows the totality of the human heart...that this does not exhaust God's love and patience, that he continues to take this rebellious child by the hand."

Jaques Ellul, The Judgement of Jonah

### God prepared:

The wind

The plant

The fish

The worm

### Choosing Compassion

So how could [God] get attached to us? The only answer is that an infinite, omnipotent, self-sufficient divine being loves voluntarily...How could God say, "What happens to Nineveh affects me. It moves me. It grieves me?" It means he voluntarily attaches his heart.

Tim Keller, The Prodigal Prophet

### TAKE OUT: Loving Your Enemies

The character of God that saved Nineveh meant that God entered their world and their story.

Jesus does this too.

...he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself

**Phil 2: 7-8**

### The words of Jesus

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

**Matt 5:43-44**

Who do you justify thinking of as 'an enemy'?  
How do you need to pray this week?

---

## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Recap this week's teaching as a group. What stood out to you? What was new information?
2. Spend a few minutes talking about the series as a whole. What was your biggest takeaway? Has your perspective of the Book of Jonah changed? If so, in what ways?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read through **Jonah 4** together.
  - a. What stands out to you?
  - b. In your opinion, is Jonah at all justified in his anger? In pairs, have a discussion with one person defending Jonah's attitude and behaviour and another opposing it.
4. Read **v. 2** again. Check out some of the other verses listed in the teaching notes and take note of what is happening in each instance. (**Neh 9:17, Ps. 86:15, Ps 103:8, 145:8, Joel 2:13**)
  - a. Can you think of an instance or example in your own life where these words apply?
  - b. Have you ever experienced a time like Jonah where the character of God caused anger for you?
5. God's character is fully revealed in Jesus (**John 1:18**). Talk about how the death and resurrection of Jesus is a model for loving our enemies in the new covenant.
  - a. As a group, read **Matthew 5:43-48**. Talk about who your enemies are. Start broadly (who may we generically define as our enemies) and get specific (Anyone in particular in your life right now who is difficult?)
  - b. How are we called to engage with people who are against us?
  - c. What are some practical steps to be taken this week to obey these words of Jesus?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. What are some ways you are tempted to act like Jonah instead of Jesus towards people who are difficult to love? Use this time to pray for these people in our lives.