

JONAH: Week 4 – An Unhappy Servant

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

In chapter 3 of Jonah, God calls the prophet once again to speak His Word to the people of Nineveh. This time, Jonah delivers the message bluntly and to the point. We're told that Jonah's message spread even to the king of Nineveh, who issued an executive order for the people to repent and cry out to God. The great news of this chapter is that God saw Nineveh repent, and He responded with His grace.

Tell the story – Jonah 4 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love (Psalm 145:8); God looks beyond our actions and sees our heart (I Samuel 16:7); God exposes and weighs the motives of our heart (I Corinthians 4:5); even in our selfishness and pride, God is patient with us (II Peter 3:9); God gives us the freedom to follow or reject His leadership; God offers everyone grace and salvation through His Son, Jesus (John 3:16-17); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I struggle when the people I dislike receive blessings from the Lord (Psalm 73:3); I must not only do the will of God, but do the will of God from my heart (Ephesians 6:6); my anger will never achieve the righteousness of God (James 1:20); just like the prodigal's elder brother, I struggle with selfishness and pride (Luke 15:28); I am more concerned with being comfortable than seeing the lost come to faith in Jesus; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. In what situations have you had to struggle with wanting people to like and respect you more than you wanted to please God and exhibit godly character?
2. How has God shown you patient tenderness? How can you reflect that to others?

Assign next week's passage – John 11:1-35 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

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JONAH: Week 4 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

We often remind our leaders that listening is a key aspect of facilitating. Good questions show good listening. Robert L. Montgomery, author of *Listening Made Easy*, says these are the 10 most common characteristics of a good listener:

- 1) Makes Eye Contact
- 2) Asks Clarifying Questions
- 3) Asks Questions about Feelings
- 4) Repeats Key Points
- 5) Doesn't Rush the Speaker
- 6) Responds with Body Language (head shake, smile, leaning towards that person)
- 7) Pays Close Attention
- 8) Doesn't Interrupt the Speaker
- 9) Stays Emotionally Controlled
- 10) Stays on Subject until the Conversation Ends.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Take time this week to have intentional conversations with several members of your Grow Group. Practice the listening skills outlined in the leading section above during a conversation with a group member. Being a good listener helps the speaker to feel valued and to develop trust. The more they trust you, the deeper they will share with you. You will be even more effective in discipling them in their walk with Christ.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true'" Luke 1:38a

Has God ever thrown you a curve ball? Of course, He hasn't sent an angel to tell you that you are pregnant with the Son of God. But, has God ever caught you off guard? Maybe you lost your job, received a disappointing phone call from your child's principal, or even just got caught in traffic. Sometimes our lives feel like they are spinning out of control. In our hearts, we might even scream, "This is not the way I imagined it!" But even when our plans don't seem to match God's path, we can still count on His purpose. Always remember that He loves us and knows the whole picture. Commit to responding as a servant and as a child who trusts their Father!