

Bible Study **Jonah 4:1-11**

Opening Questions:

1. What sort of crimes or atrocities make you long for God's vengeance rather than his compassion?

Read Jonah 4:1-11

1. What attributes of God's character are mentioned in verse two?
 - (a) why do you think Jonah has a problem with this?
 - (b) Is anger toward God ever warranted? (Gen 18:25, Revelation 16:7).
 - (c) How did Jonah handle his anger? What did he do?
2. How does Jonah's attitude to the Ninevites compare with the sailors' attitude to him?
 - (a) How does this speak of, or challenge attitudes in our community?
3. Read Romans 8:31-39, how does the New Testament expand our understanding of the love of God?
 - (a) How should our response to it differ from Jonah's? (1 John 3:16-18, 1 John 4:7-2)
4. In Luke 11:29-32, Jesus says Jonah is a sign to the present unbelieving generation because of their failure to repent, as the Ninevites did. What lesson is there in this for the church today?
 - (a) What might the people of Nineveh say to us, in the light of Jesus' words

5. What do we learn about God from the fact that he used the vine/worm/wind etc to teach Jonah a lesson?
 - (a) What was the lesson?

6. The book of Jonah shows God's surprising concern for outsiders, foreigners, those who 'don't belong'
 - (a) What examples or teachings in the New Testament demonstrate the same surprising (even subversive) nature of the gospel?

 - (b) Are we ever tempted to respond as Jonah did?

 - (c) Why does God care?

7. What response does the final question in the book evoke?

8. What is the main principle that you take away from the book of Jonah?
 - (a) How can this be applied?

Additional reading: 2 Peter 1:1-3, Exodus 34:5-8, Ephesians 2:11-13, Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 46:10, Romans 8:28, Romans 9:19-21, Romans 3:21-26

Personal Reflection:

1. Do you think a knowledge of God's love and mercy would help your relationship with God?
2. What are a couple of things you can do personally to align your dream for your world closer to God's dream for the world?
3. What are a couple of things that we as a church can do together to closer align our activities and attitudes to God's dream for the world?