

Home Group Notes  
March 31, 2019

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The focus of this week is to see the mercy of God shown to all people and that this should lead us to do show love and mercy to all people – even those we don't like.**

SHARE

Have you had a time in your life when God really got your attention?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this opener is to help people share how God has worked in their lives including when God needed to grab their attention. This could include times when God disciplines us, when we haven't been listening to His call to do some ministry, or when we need to break a bad habit or cease sin.**

**As a leader, your transparency will lead the way. People will feel it is safe to share if you share. Since we have all had these times, be prepared to share about God's good hand of mercy.**

LEARN

This week we will study Jonah 1:17-2:10.

At this point in the book, how do we see the hand of God in what has happened?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: God sent a missionary to Nineveh, sent a storm, shown mercy to the sailors, stopped a storm, sent a fish, saved Jonah's life.**

How many times did Jonah personally address the LORD? What is Jonah's focus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Look for how often Jonah said "You." Jonah's focus has been expressing thanks for being spared. He uses many of the words of Psalms.**

How would you describe God's actions toward Jonah? What do we learn about God?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this question is to see that God is amazing, gracious, and good. God is the hero.**

**God has been clear, patient, merciful, and corrective. The character of God is astonishing – his compassion for the Assyrians, his patience and mercy for all is seen in no one else but God.**

What are the ways that Jonah responds to God? Is anything missing? (See David in Psalm 51)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: While Jonah seems thankful for God's mercy, he does not express what he has done wrong, nor indicates that he should have had compassion for the thousands of people in Assyria.**

How should God's mercy affect our relationship with Him? With others?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: In short – we are called to be people of mercy. We have been shown mercy. We should learn the compassion of God. It might be helpful to read Jesus' story in Matthew 18:23-35.**

How does this story relate to the person and work of Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Some compare Jonah and Jesus. Jonah is the normal human response of hate for an enemy who has grossly mistreated him or his people. Jesus is so unlike Jonah. He was rejected, misunderstood, falsely accused, abandoned, knew his friends would be mistreated, tortured, and killed. And yet He offered grace, mercy, and forgiveness.**

DISCUSS

How has God shown mercy throughout this book? What is a healthy response to God's mercy?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Mercy to the people of Assyria (sent a missionary), mercy to sailors, to Jonah. A healthy response is to be like Jesus – offering mercy to all including your enemies.**

What impact should God's mercy have on our relationships with people?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Those who have received God's mercy should be people of mercy. That shouldn't only mean a refusal to take vengeance. It should also move us to compassion for those who are facing wrath and an eternity without God. As one atheist said, "How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"**

According to 1 John 1:3-4, what follows mercy? What motivates?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Proclamation of the gospel results in people finding grace and salvation resulting in fellowship with God and His people. This should result in our joy as we see people connected with God.**

I pray that our God of compassion will give you wisdom and power as you lead.

Steve