

Home Group Notes
Week of April 14, 2019

SHARE

Were you ever mad at people or God because someone 'didn't get what they had comin' to them?'

NOTES TO LEADERS: There is a judge in all of us that feels indignant when a driver in our path acts improperly. But this question is going beyond the obvious. I'm assuming that many of us have felt troubled by someone's (or God's) failure to judge the unkind or slothful or

LEARN

Read through Jonah 4. List the emotional responses of Jonah in this chapter. What are God's responses to his reactions?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jonah was angry and hateful, wanting to see blood spilled. God asked him twice if he (Jonah) had good reason to be angry.

Contrast God's and Jonah's character. What are the main differences?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jonah was judgmental, condemning, vengeful, arrogant, angry, and impatient. God was compassionate, patient, showing kindness that could lead to repentance – wanting to love and spare people His righteous wrath.

List the elements and animals God manipulated to reach Jonah. Why might God be doing this? Does God do this with us?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Throughout this record, God used sailors, captain, wind, water/waves, a fish, sunshine (heat), a long walk, a plant, and a worm. God used "circumstances" or "sitz im leben" to speak to Jonah. In addition to the Word of God, prayer, friends in Christ, God sometimes opens and closes doors to speak to us. The Holy Spirit is always speaking to us – empowering, guiding, revealing, teaching. Sometimes, God uses the circumstances of life to show us His way or to speak to our hearts with assurance or correction. In recent days God has used circumstances to remind me to wait on God.

How are we sometimes like Jonah in our reactions? What would be a good thing to ask ourselves?

NOTES TO LEADERS: As James says, our "anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." Todd in his message shared the need to ask ourselves the same question that God asked Jonah: "Do I have good reason to be angry?"

What is God saying with the final question? (11)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The final question is, "Should I not be concerned?" Todd, in his messages, has repeatedly shown us that God has called us to have compassion on the unconvinced in our worlds. In God's power and grace, we can be intentional to love, serve, and do whatever it takes to rescue.

DISCUSS

How would you summarize the main message of the Jonah series? How is this just as relevant today?

NOTES TO LEADERS: God has called us to "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." Our way of life should be full of compassion,

gracious, ready to forgive, and full of love without limits. This should motivate us to help people see/hear the good news and rescue them from their present course.

Our own comfort or indifference can interfere with our mission to share God's mercy and grace. What helps us overcome this tendency? How can we stay away from the 'Jonah syndrome?'

NOTES TO LEADERS: A good conversation could be about comfort is a driver.

Us Americanized Christians can easily and regularly make comfort our desire.

Just as Jonah didn't want to be inconvenienced, we can live for our own pleasures.

Who is someone in your life that you long to see included in God's kingdom? Is God asking you to love, serve, or reach out? How could this happen? Is anything holding you back? How can we pray for you and your friend?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Even as I wrote these questions, I could think of many people in my world still without Jesus. God's love motivates me to pray and watch for opportunities to serve, love, and share.

PRAYING FOR YOU AS YOU SHEPHERD GOD'S PEOPLE.

STEVE