



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 23rd Jun 2024



Jonah 4 Happy ever after?

Warm Up

Does anyone remember having a tantrum when they were a small child? What was it about? How did the adult in charge of you respond?

Background and context

In this final chapter we see Jonah being very angry at God. Why? Because of God's compassion and mercy. You can imagine Jonah pointing an accusing finger at God and shouting, "I knew you'd do that, I just knew it!" Jonah was waiting to see justice meted out to the Ninevites. But God had other ideas. He was waiting to show mercy and compassion. This is what upsets Jonah. We too can be a bit like Jonah, desperate to see the bad guys get their comeuppance. Sometimes we struggle to see things from God's perspective. He doesn't want anyone to perish!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. What's your favourite story? Does it have a happy ending?
2. Why do you think humans look for a happy ending, when most endings we see around us are unhappy?
3. What is Jonah angry about?
4. Why do you think his anger is so out of control?
5. Are there any things you've been angry with God about?
6. When did you last ask yourself, "Am I seeing this from my point of view or God's?"
7. How can God's patience with Jonah encourage you?
8. How does it encourage you to be patient with others?
9. How does Jonah point us to Jesus?

Discipleship and Application



10. Think of the plant that God provided for Jonah. What blessings have we received that we have become so attached to that we care more about them than the lost souls around us?
11. What makes it so difficult for us to balance justice and mercy in our society? How can you do this in your walk with God?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.