
Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.

SERIES: In Deep

MESSAGE TITLE: God Cares More

MESSAGE OVERVIEW: Jonah's narrow focus and selfish heart cause him to have an epic meltdown. He chooses anger in light of his perception that justice has failed. He forgot that he too is a recipient of God's grace and patience. Mercy wasn't just for Ninevah, God was pursuing him too. True love and justice are found, perfectly balanced, in Jesus, and His compassion and mercy are for everyone.

FOCUS PASSAGE: Jonah 4

BREAKING IT DOWN:

1. In this last chapter, we find Jonah throwing himself a pity party. He is still clinging to what he thinks is injustice. He claims to know God is abundantly gracious and loving, but his actions prove he doesn't quite accept it; a hypocritical perspective. Knowing God's character, Jonah should have been the last to judge anyone. Do you know the vast goodness of God's character? Are you experiencing it too?
2. Amongst other catalysts, misplaced justice causes us to get angry. It's our subconscious attempt to bring about justice. This sense of right and wrong is built into us by God as a moral compass. But we often overlook God and try to bring about justice on our terms. Justice is God's to determine, not ours. How much energy have you put into seeking justice? Was it effective?
3. God asks "Is it right for you to be angry?" Jonah has let his emotions do the driving, so his perception is skewed. The course of his day depends on whatever he feels moment to moment. Anger blinds us. It depletes the chemicals in our brains needed to be happy, literally making us miserable. Even justified anger isn't good for us. What is the proper response to our own anger? What steps can you take when you think something is wrong?
4. Ninevah was finally destroyed. Its repentance only lasted 33 years before falling back into a sinful lifestyle. It was prophesied to happen 250 years beforehand, which shows that God's immediate response is not judgement and destruction; He wants no one to perish. He is exceedingly gracious and merciful. There are so many instances, in our own lives and the world at large, where we question God. Is He trustworthy? Patient? Does He care enough? Yes. God cares more.

WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:

Remember God's character, and choose to trust in Him first.

- God is patient
- He loves everyone, everywhere
- We are recipients of His grace
- He is compassionate

