

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Sermon Discussion Guide

Preaching Passage: Jonah

Sermon Series: Words of Life

Sermon Title: "Compassion"

Date: May 9, 2021

Preacher: Bart Box

Discussion Questions:

- 1) [Q] In your own personal study of this week's CFC's Bible reading plan, what particular new insights did you gain?
- 2) Jonah is one of the more familiar books among the minor prophets. [Q] In your opinion, what is the one verse that summarizes the whole book? Explain why you pick that verse.
- 3) Lesson #1 from the sermon—God is not mocked—came from Jonah 1. Bart's main point was to highlight that, despite Jonah's intentional disobeying God, God cannot be frustrated, defeated, or mocked.
 - a. [Q] What was the biggest takeaway for you personally regarding this point?
- 4) Lesson #2—God is merciful—came from Jonah 2. God's mercy, to Jonah, to the pagan sailors, and to the Ninevites is the driving theme of the chapter.
 - a. [Q] Why is it critical for us to grasp that God's mercy doesn't just come to us in a single experience of mercy, but in an entanglement of mercy throughout our whole lives?
 - b. [Q] Where have you seen growth in your own life when it comes to God working on your heart through his mercy?
 - c. Bart said that the book of Jonah could have ended after 4 verses—when Jonah refused to obey God, God could have just called someone else. But the whole book of Jonah reveals that God chooses to go through the trouble of working in us and growing us by his mercy.
 - i. [Q] In what ways is that encouraging to you?
- 5) Lesson #3—God can save anyone—came from Jonah 3. There, what seems impossible happens: the wicked Ninevites repent at God's message.
 - a. [Q] What is the name of a person whom you have (in your mind, at least) deemed unsavable?
 - i. [Q] How can the group pray for them? Are there any Scriptures we could pray in particular for this person?

- 6) Lesson #4—God aims to change our hearts—comes from Jonah 4. There, we see Jonah still suffering from a hardness of heart to those that he has just preached to.
- a. Notice how in Jonah 4:2, Jonah is essentially quoting Exodus 34:6, which is meant to be one of the most encouraging verses in all of the Bible. In it, God is showing what his character is like. But Jonah, in his bitterness of heart, manages to turn that verse into a discouragement, rather than encouragement.
 - i. [Q] How is that possible? And can you think of examples in your own life when you have done this with other Biblical truths?
 - b. [Q] If you had to summarize the status of Jonah's heart with one word, what would it be?
 - i. And for whatever word you chose, [Q] how can you be on guard against that mentality in your own life?
 - c. [Q] What is the single greatest factor that keeps you from adopting the mindset that all people matter to God?