

Study Guide

Jonah 4

1. Read Jonah 1:1-3. Why do you think Jonah was “exceedingly angry”, to the point of wanting to die? Discuss the description of God in v. 2b. Can we be quick to receive the grace of God in our lives, but forget that others need His grace also? Discuss.
2. Jonah wanted to die. Notice how “*the mind set of the flesh is death*” (Romans 8:6a). Discuss the characteristics of this type of mindset: being self-absorbed, self-pity and having a disordered love towards God. How did Jonah struggle with these? How might we struggle with these?
3. Read Jonah 4:4-5. Do you think we all struggle with anger? How do different people express their anger? How did Jonah deal with his anger? How do you deal with your anger? Discuss how anger can expose what we worship (idols).
4. Read Jonah 4:6-8. How did God help Jonah (who was avoiding his issues) to face his anger? How does God do that in our lives?
5. Read Jonah 4:9-10. How can we hit the “reset button” when it comes to the heart of God? Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and discuss how we often need to reorient ourselves to what is really important.

Application- Ideas on hitting the “reset button”

- Talk about your anger
- Recount the gospel to yourself
- Do a serving project
- Fast
- Pray for the lost

Message Slides

Jonah 4

Leviticus- overview- *You shall be mine!*

A. Self Pity (v.1-3)

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

B. (Not) Addressing my Anger (v.4-5)

⁴And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.

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1. Why do I feel angry?
2. What do I expect from God?

C. When God Tests our Hearts (v.6-8)

⁶Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Job 1:21-22

²¹And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

D. Hitting the Reset Button V. 10-11

¹⁰But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." ¹¹And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹²And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Heb. 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.