



Interpretative Key

While this book is titled Jonah, Jonah is not the protagonist, and he is not the main character. God is the main character, and God's character reminds us that nothing is beyond God's mercy ... not even your worst enemy ... not you're your worst day. And God leaves us all with a question – If this is God's character, should it not be ours too?

Opening Question

Have you ever questioned something God has asked you to do?

GROUP DISCUSSION

The prophets of the Old Testament are usually God's covenant lawiers, they saw it as their job to warn the people of Israel of their sins and encourage them to follow God's laws before the natural consequences of their actions would catch up with them. The story of Jonah is a little different. Jonah is called by God to go outside Israel and Jonah seems to be more rebellious and reluctant to follow God than the people God sends him to.

At this time the Neo-Assyrian empires capital is Nenivah. The Assyrians were known for being brutal conquerors. Their reputation put them in direct opposition to the people of Israel. At the same time God calls a prophet to

Read: Jonah 1:1-3

Question: Why do you think Jonah runs in the opposite direction of Gods clear call and command?

Thought: Think of the people in your life you would be shocked to hear had made major moral changes in their lives. Jumping ahead read the following passage to see a big point of the book.

Read: Jonah 3:10-4:4

Question: What do you think could be under the surface of Jonah's issues with the revival he is seeing?

Where do you relate to some of those issues that Jonah has?

What does this passage tell us about what Jonah understands of Gods character?

Can you relate to Jonah's frustration with God?

Read: Jonah 1:3-17

Question: What kind of light does this passage put Jonah?

Read: Jonah 2:1 and 10, Jonah 3:1-10

Question: While Jonah has not been painted as the hero of the story what positive things do you see about him in this passage?

Read: Jonah 4:10

Question:

Who are the hard people in your life that God may have called you to invest in? To witness to? To challenge in how they are living their lives? To disciple?