

7-12 Connect Group Lesson

Welcome

Opening Question: What has been one of your most memorable interactions with wildlife?

Worship

Word

Read Jonah 3:3-4:4 and answer the following questions.

- 1) We are going to start our lesson in chapter 3. If you wish any discussion about the first two chapters (of historical context) feel free to have it here.
- 2) What was God's reaction to the Ninevites' repentance? What are Jonah's feelings on God's mercy?
- 3) What stands out to you about God's mercy?
- 4) What does Jonah do in verse 5? What do you think he is hoping for?
- 5) In chapter 4 we see Jonah cares more about a shady plant than the Ninevite people. Look at Jonah 4:9-11 and read God's rebuke of Jonah? What stands out to you?

Digging Deeper:

- 1) The Assyrians were a cruel and proud people. They were also enemies of the Israelites. Does knowing this background help you to understand Jonah better?
- 2) The book of Jonah deals with both the mercy and judgment of God. Why is it important to have a Biblical view of both?
- 3) Talk about the tendency of many people to desire mercy for themselves and judgment for their enemies?
- 4) Read the following verses and comment: Ezekiel 18:23, Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9.
- 5) Explain repentance in your own words?
- 6) Why is repentance necessary?
- 7) The Hebrews were given a special relationship with God. However, they often forgot God's love for all people. Read from among the following verses: Genesis 12:3, Psalm 67:2-4, Isaiah 49:6, Mark 11:15-17, Matthew 28:19, Revelation 7:9.
- 8) God's people don't always share His compassion for lost people. Why do you think this is so and what can we do to correct this?

Works

Jonah was not excited about the Ninevites' repentance. He certainly needed a heart change. While we may not resent people coming to God, we can often be ambivalent about being a part of God's work. Spend some time as a group praying that God would give you a heart for people and a desire to share the Gospel.