

LIFE APP

July 4-5, 2020



NINEVEH

Jonah 4 NIV: This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.” The Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?” Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah’s head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. “Death is certainly better than living like this!” he exclaimed. Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?” “Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!” Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great city?”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week our exciting destination is Nineveh - the capital of Assyria - which was located in modern day Iraq. Nineveh was a huge city that was filled with people who were known to be evil, cruel, and corrupt. We’re told in Jonah 1:1 that “the Word of the Lord came to Jonah” and even though he was a Jewish prophet, he was told to go to Nineveh and preach against this wicked Gentile nation. The first thing we learn about Jonah is that he was not very obedient to God’s call on his life. Instead of going to Nineveh and doing what God told him to do, he ran as far away in the opposite direction as he could possibly go. God’s Word is amazing though as it gives us examples to follow and also examples to NOT follow. Let’s see what we can learn from the story of Jonah.

Read Jonah 1:4-17:

1A) According to verses 4-6, what did God do to get Jonah’s attention?

1B) What was Jonah doing and what was the response of the captain of the ship?

2A) According to verses 7-16, how were the sailors affected by these events?

2B) PERSONAL: How does this event in the life of Jonah show you that what we do affects others? How were the sailors changed?

3) In verse 17, what do we find that God provided next for Jonah?

Read Jonah 2:

4A) How does this passage reveal that God finally got Jonah's attention?

4B) PERSONAL: What is most meaningful to you about the prayer of Jonah and how does this encourage you?

Read Jonah 3:

5) How does this passage reveal that God was able to use Jonah to be an effective witness for Him?

6A) Our focus passage is Jonah 4, which most people don't know even exists because we've only been taught the first 3 chapters which have a nice pleasing ending. However, what do we learn about Jonah's attitude in Jonah 4:1-3?

6B) PERSONAL: How would you describe Jonah's character at this point?

6C) What was God's response to Jonah in verse 4?

7A) According to verses 5-10, what other things do we see that God provided for Jonah?

7B) Describe Jonah's attitude and what questions did God ask to try to change his thinking?

8A) How do the following verses help us understand that our commitment to God and our compassion for others can change our character for the better?

2 Peter 1:5-7:

1 John 3:16-17:

James 1:2-4:

8B) PERSONAL: How are you like Jonah? What do you need to work on to be a more effective witness? How concerned are you about other people?

How compassionate are you?

How are you trying to add to your faith?

ACT: The citizens of Nineveh heard the message of Jonah and repented, but Jonah had no compassion for them and was angry that God did not destroy them. We must be very careful that we don't allow our anger with the things taking place in our world to negate our compassion for others. We must continue to love God and to love others - all others - as ourselves. We must be committed to following God's Word and His Way and focus on spending time with Him so that we can add to our faith and continue to develop our character - to be more like our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe how important compassion is to God.

Monday:

Psalm 145:9 NLT

The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

Tuesday:

Psalm 103:8-13 NLT

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

Wednesday:

Micah 7:18-20 NLT

Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love. Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago.

Thursday:

Luke 6:35-36 NLT

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”

Friday:

Mark 6:34 NLT

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Saturday:

Philippians 1:7-9 NLT

So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

Sunday:

Philippians 2:1-2 NLT

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

