

Small Group Study
April 5, 2020

A suggested format for your group time

- **Fellowship** (ie. What's one thing that you and/or your family have been doing to make the most of 'quarantine life'?)
- **Prayer**
 - *Lost | Unchurched (Who's Your One)
 - *Needs of Group Members
 - *Needs of Friends & Family
 - *Other Needs (community, church, mission partnerships, college connections etc.)

A note about 'prayer request etiquette' - be sensitive to whether or not the person who is making the request wishes for it to stay in Small Group or if they prefer for the church at large to be praying (in which case, please submit the request at coralhillbaptist.com/bethechurch).

- **Study** (see below)
 - *To give your group the best possible chance for robust, text-based discussion, send some sort of reminder during the week of the text that you will be looking at and encourage your folks to read/study beforehand
 - *Utilize the Small Group Leader Guide we provide each week

Jonah 4

Chapter Summary:

Jonah expresses disappointment and anger that God spared the peoples of Nineveh. He knew that if the Assyrians repented that God, who is gracious and merciful, would stay His hand of judgment. Jonah set up a booth on a hillside overlooking the city in hopes that God would destroy it anyway. God caused a plant to miraculously grow and provide shade from the hot sun for this bitter prophet, only to remove the shade by sending a worm to destroy the plant. Once again, Jonah is angry. He was more concerned over a plant than the people of Nineveh.

*There is an additional text to read (**Luke 15:1-8**) that shows how the Pharisees felt about publicans coming to Christ. The text also demonstrates the joy over one soul that repents.

Key Idea: God shows mercy and grace to everyone who responds to Him in faith and repentance.

Jumpstart Questions: (These questions are designed to generate discussion and to help your group make a connection between everyday life and biblical truth. Please feel free to use any, all, none, or make up your own questions to initiate class conversations.)

- What are some things that tend to cause you to be angry? What do you think is the root cause of a person's anger? Do we become angry because people violate God's will or our will?
- Have you ever been angry with God? How did it affect your faith when you asked God for something and He either answered in silence or did the exact opposite of what you had asked?
- What concerns us more: our own comforts or the spiritual condition of those individuals without Christ? Explain your response.

Suggested outline for reading the text and using the Process of Discipleship questions

1. Ask volunteers to read a portion of the chapter (Jonah 4:1-2) and then have the group make general observations using the first two diagnostic questions.
 - What is one thing you like in this passage?
 - Is there anything in this passage that you find difficult to understand?
2. Follow the same pattern for the following sections of Scripture (4:3-8; 4:9-11; *Luke 15:1-8).
3. Once general observations have been made, ask a volunteer to re-read the entire passage in either the same translation or a different translation so that the entire text is in view. Follow the reading with the remainder discipleship questions.
 - What is something this passage shows about God (the Father and/or the Son)?
It's helpful to think about this question while imagining how we would answer if this were the only chapter of Scripture to which we had access.
 - What does this passage teach us about Man? Are there any good or bad examples to learn from?
 - Is there a command to obey or a principle to follow in this text?
 - Is there a sin to confess and repent of in this passage?
 - Is there a specific promise to trust in this passage?
 - What is at least one way God's Spirit is using this passage to personally teach, admonish, or correct you as you seek to live more like Christ?
 - What is one specific thing you will **do** in response to this passage?
Try to avoid being general. Think about some different ways the truth of this text could be applied.