



Week 7 – Group Discussion Questions

JONAH 4:1-4

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.” ⁴And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

CONTENT OBSERVATIONS

Watch the video together. sin is sinister. We are prone to wander into self-centeredness, sometimes to the point of viewing God's blessing to others with anger, like Jonah. The grace of God knows no boundaries and no matter how hard we try, we cannot control His compassion for others. Rather, God extends His kindness to us to provide us with the opportunity to pursue repentance. Even more, He is willing to answer certain prayers with a “no” to keep us from further harm to ourselves. Most of us like what God says from a distance. When He calls us into action, our hearts are exposed and the real work of life with Christ begins. No matter where you find yourself today, no matter how difficult obedience seems, remember the kindness of God as He leads you into selfless freedom. Like the story of Jonah, God regularly shows kindness toward sinners, but not so that we can remain in our sin. God extends His kindness to lead us into repentance from our sin (Rom. 2:4)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) When have you experienced God's compassion extended to those who you do not like?
- 2.) What circumstances has God used in your life to reveal your true view of His character? How has He graciously intervened to surface the disconnect between what you claim to believe and what your actions communicate?
- 3.) Think of someone in your life you struggle to love. After doing so, write down three ways you can serve them compassionately this week. Make a point to follow through on at least one by next week.

The practice of confession and repentance

The practice of confession and repentance allows for us to take responsibility for our actions, attitudes and words. Confession and repentance set us free from shame, unworthiness and obligation that accumulate whenever we make foolish, selfish or harmful choices. Confession brings the healing presence of God and invites God's transformative power into our acknowledged areas of sin, struggle and weakness- whether sins of commission or omission.

This last week, Grace Gathering (churchwide) practiced 7 days of corporate confession and repentance by reading this prayer multiple times together.

Lord hear the prayer that we, your sons and daughters, now pray together. We confess the sins that we have committed against you. We recognize that we have done things that we should not do, but do anyway. And we have things in our lives that we should do, but don't. We have behaved corruptly by having independent spirits and have not looked to You to unify us. We've sought comfort and convenience instead of following nudges from your Spirit. We have not stood for the marginalized and poor in our community. There have been times when we have participated in impure acts and not followed your way of purity. We have been unjust with our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and with those who we do not agree with. We have not kept the commandments that you have given to us. We have abused the Sabbath Day. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved you with all our mind and strength; we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Forgive us, Lord, for following the patterns of this world and falling into a materialist mindset. We have chosen the immediate for the eternal way too often. So today, we humble ourselves and pray and seek You. Your Word promises that if we, who are called by your name, will humble ourselves, and pray, and seek your face, and turn from our wicked ways; then we will hear from heaven, and you will forgive our sin, and will heal our land. . Forgive us God, for the times we've missed the mark. Help us to live our lives, filled by the power of your Spirit within us. We ask that you would be with us-- extending your grace, granting your freedom, providing your protection, and empowering us with your strength. We pray that you would bring about an awakening of your presence in us as never seen before. May your name be proclaimed in all the earth and may every evil plan of the enemy be torn down. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*There may be other things that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind to confess in scattered corporate times.

PRACTICES OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS

- 1.) In reading through this prayer last week, what parts of the prayer really resonated with you personally?
- 2.) Were there any additional steps that you took to move from repentance to believing? Did you make a plan? Were you able to share that with anyone?
- 3.) Were there other sins that God brought to mind that were not mentioned in the written prayer?
- 4.) One of the things we prayed for was an awakening of God's presence through the Holy Spirit transforming us. Are there any areas of freedom and awakening that you can share?! How can we celebrate that together!

Example Schedule for Group Time

10 min.	Welcome time
10 min.	Ice Breaker or Relational time (i.e. Sweets and Sours, a game, etc.)
7 min.	Watch the video
20 min.	Discussion Questions
15 min.	The Practice Repentance

Weekly videos links and PDF available at gracegathering.com/groups