

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

April 14th, 2019

God you want to do what?

Ice Breaker Questions:

When was a time that you experienced mercy when you did not deserve it? When was a time you extended mercy to someone who didn't deserve it?

What were your big takeaways from this week's message?

READ: Jonah 4

This week we see Jonah really raging against God's mercy and forgiveness to the Ninevites. Jonah didn't have much compassion for the Ninevites. Can you relate to Jonah's response? What does it tell us about the condition of Jonah's heart?

We were challenged this week that God forgives His enemies and your enemies. He also calls us to forgive and show compassion toward our enemies. Aren't we glad God forgives his enemies because we are his enemies too?

How do you wrestle with the idea that God may want you to forgive your enemies?

Putting It into Practice:

1) This week we heard that: **"This is the kind of God we have"** and **"These are the kind of people He invites"**.

Discuss how these verses below reinforce each of these statements.

How do the descriptions of God impact your previous/current perception of God?

How do these verses challenge and stretch you as a follower of God?

Romans 5:6-10

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

¹⁰ For if, while we were God's *enemies*, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Matthew 5:43-45

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous

Psalm 145:8-9

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹ The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Ephesians 5:1

¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels *us*, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled *us* to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

And he has committed to *us* the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for *us*, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2) Mark made the statement that:

God will go to any length to rescue you and your enemies

Which of the previous verses motivate you to most to have compassionate faith and impact others for Christ? Describe how you will put it into practice.

3) Mark asked the question **Am I more like Jonah or more like Jesus?**

If we are honest, I think we can all relate to Jonah's response. Sometimes we may even behave like Jonah. How can we grow to be more like Jesus?

CELEBRATE:

One of the ways we can effectively live out our faith is doing life with others. How has your group encouraged or challenged you to grow to be more like Jesus this year?

As we approach Easter weekend, who could you invite to hear about the kindness, compassionate, mercy of Jesus? Share this with your group.

CLOSING PRAYER: Have people share prayer requests for this week and spend some time praying for each other.

Ask how you might prayer for each other as you consider these two questions
How can I more deeply experience the compassion of God? How can I share it?