



Sermon Discussion Guide

08.31.25 Message | Tyler Myers | Jonah 4:1-11

Key Scripture (ESV)

“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And 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. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.

When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”

And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

- **Jonah 4:1–11**

Message Highlights

- Grace is uncomfortable when it benefits those we don't think deserve it.
- We often compartmentalize our faith, trying to control where and how God shows up.
- Anger, apathy and anxiety can block our ability to reflect God's redemptive work.
- God's compassion challenges our self-centeredness and calls us into mission.
- We are invited to align our desires and dependence with God's heart and presence.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something small (like a plant, parking spot, or shady chair) you've been irrationally mad about losing—and did it reveal anything deeper about you?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- Tyler said, "Grace is uncomfortable when it benefits those we don't think deserve it." Where do you wrestle with this kind of grace?
 - During the message it was said that we tend to compartmentalize our faith. What parts of your life do you tend to keep off-limits to God?
 - Tyler challenged us to ask, "How's your anger working out for you?" Where has your anger toward God or others stalled your growth?
 - The message raised the idea that Jonah was okay with God's grace until it didn't serve his preferences. When have you felt similarly?
 - Tyler said our desire and dependence reveal how we respond to God's presence. How are you doing in those two areas?
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THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Why do you think Jonah was so angry about God's mercy? (Jonah 4:1–2)
 - What does Jonah's reaction to the plant and the worm tell us about his heart posture? (Jonah 4:6–7)
 - How do you interpret God's repeated question: "Do you do well to be angry?" (Jonah 4:4, 9)
What's the significance of God comparing Jonah's pity for a plant to his compassion for Nineveh? (Jonah 4:10–11)
 - How does the ending—without resolution—invite us to respond? (Jonah 4:11)
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THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- Where in your life do you struggle with accepting God's grace for others?
- How do you respond when God doesn't act the way you think he should?
- In what ways have your preferences shaped your perspective of God's mission?
- What needs to shift in your heart to better desire and depend on God's presence?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- How can you better extend grace to people you disagree with at work or in your neighborhood?
- What could it look like to model repentance and humility in your household this week?
- Who in your circle needs to experience God's mercy—and how can you reflect it?
- How could you invite someone into your life this week who seems “undeserving” of your time or grace?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- How does Jonah 4 challenge your view of what God’s Kingdom looks like when it comes to mercy and justice?
- What would change if we truly believed that every daily interaction was an opportunity to reflect God’s redemptive grace?