



## Jonah or Jesus?

### Jonah 4:1-11

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. What is the most surprising and/or disappointing ending of a movie that you have seen?
3. Read Jonah 4:1-2. For the first time in the whole book, we are brought into a debate that Jonah has been having with God since before chapter one. Why is Jonah angry? How does Jonah's description of God only fuel his anger? See also Exodus 34:6-7.
4. Can God be good and just if he does not judge "bad" people who sin? Explain. Why does our culture maximize a God of love and minimize or deny a God of judgment? How is judgment a necessary attribute of a God who is all-good? How does the cross of Jesus Christ resolve the tension between the judgment of God and the love of God?
5. Throughout the book of Jonah, we ironically see the "pagan bad" people (Phoenician sailors and Ninevites) acting more "good," and Jonah, the religious person, acting more "bad." How does this cause us to reevaluate a common belief in the church that we are the "good" people and those "other" people, out in the world, are the "bad" people? Who is "good" and who is "bad," and which one deserves God's forgiveness? See Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:10, 23, Galatians 2:16, and Ephesians 2:8-9.
6. Read Jonah 4:3-4. Jonah's worldview of reality was so challenged by God that he wanted to die. Jonah was holding on to his beliefs and identity so much that he was angry at God for confronting them. In what ways does our anger at God and despair in life reveal our entitlements and idols? How does our anger toward God and pushing him away when we do not get something that we want expose that we may love that thing more than God – that it has become an idol that has taken his place in our hearts?
7. Read Jonah 4:5-11. Jonah was more upset about his discomfort and the loss of a temporary plant than he was about the lost spiritual condition of the Ninevites before he arrived. In fact, he was angry that his plant died and the Ninevites lived! Like Jonah, how do we tend to focus on comfort more than compassion, the material more than the spiritual, and the temporal more than the eternal?
8. Agree or disagree with this statement: No matter how long we have been Christians, how much Bible knowledge we have, or how often we serve God, we are not moving toward spiritual maturity unless our concerns are consistent with God's concerns.
9. How will you answer the cliffhanger question at the end of the book (4:11)? Should you not have concern for the great city of Austin – for all those living in our community? What practical ways can you have the Spirit of Jesus more than the Spirit of Jonah?
10. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.