

A Study of Jonah – Week 8

Week 8: God's abounding love.

Day 1- Overview - Read Jonah 4:1-11

1. List some of the things God did in this chapter that demonstrate His abounding love for Jonah even though Jonah wasn't "in the mood for it":
2. What are some experiences you have had where God demonstrated His abounding love for you even though you "weren't in the mood for it"?
3. How do you see God's love expressed in His questions to Jonah? What questions did God ask in these verses: Genesis 3:8-13; Genesis 4:8-12; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 22:47-48.
4. God spoke direct to Jonah and He continues to speak to us through the scripture. God also directed Jonah through circumstances (providing the vine, the worm and the scorching east wind). In the same way, God sometimes directs our paths with events and circumstances. Can you share a time God directed you through events or circumstances?

Application: What will you do today to demonstrate your appreciation for God's abounding love for you?

Day 2 – God abounding love is patient with Jonah's anger. Read 4:1-4

1. How do you relate Jonah's displeasure with that found in Luke 15:25-32?
2. List the reasons for his displeasure (4:2)?
3. What is Jonah doing in 4:3? Did God do the same thing? Explain.
4. How do you see God's love for Jonah in 4:4? Relate Jonah's situation with that in Matt. 20:1-15. What is the point Jesus was making?

Application: What do you learn from Jonah and God in these verses that you will apply to your life today?

Day 3 – God's love is consistent, but His teaching methods vary. Read 4:5-6

1. Seems Jonah went to a good vantage point to overlook the city. Why do you think he did that?
2. Do you think you have to love all people before you can share the gospel message with them? Explain.
3. This vine was *provided* (4:6) by God in the same way the great fish was *provided* (1:17). What does this tell you about God?
4. How do you see God's love through His *providing* the vine for Jonah? Do you think Jonah credits God with *providing* the vine?
5. Do you think Jonah became dependent on the vine and the shade it *provided*? Why? Has it changed his attitude any?

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Application: Is there something you've been amiss in thanking God for? Will you do that today?

Day 4 – God, in His love for Jonah, brings hardship in hopes of softening Jonah's heart. Read 4:7-9

1. Here again God *provided* a worm for what purpose? Why do you think He did this?
2. So God removed the creature comfort Jonah enjoyed. The vine was gone, but *who* did Jonah still have even though it appears he didn't appreciate it? What comfort does that give you?
3. Then God *provided* a scorching east wind (see Isa. 40:7) and blazing sun, note, *on Jonah's head!* Why?
4. What do you learn about God and hardships as you studied this chapter? Are hardships always bad? Explain.
5. Why do you think God questioned Jonah again? What was He trying to get Jonah to understand?

Application: Who will you turn to the next time one of your creature comforts breaks or are destroyed?

Day 5 – God expresses His abounding love for the lost in these closing verses. Read 4:10-11

1. Jonah's focus is on the loss of a plant which was *provided* by the Lord and required no effort on his part. Yet in this same passage, we see God concerned about the thousands of people *and animals* in Nineveh. What is the message you get from this?
2. Compare Jonah's concern to that of Abraham in Genesis 18:20-33:
3. The book ends with a question that may be for the readers to answer: Was God right? Was Jonah wrong? How would you explain God's patience, mercy, and love with respect to this story of Jonah?
4. What is the greatest lesson you have learned from studying Jonah?

Application: What are a couple of lessons you have learned that you plan to apply to your daily life?