



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Finding Your For—in light of ourselves (Jonah 4)

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

When has there been a time in your life you were certain about something, but you ended up being wrong? What was that experience like?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

As a group, recount things you know and remember about the book of Jonah? What have you understood the basic meaning of the book?

Why do you think Jonah runs from God and criticizes God even though He knows God? What is Jonah for? What is he against?

How is Jonah a mirror for us?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Jonah 4]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How did Jonah respond to God's goodness to the Ninevites? (4:1)

What was the attitude of Jonah's prayer? (4:2-3)

What did God say to Jonah? (4:4)

What did the distraught prophet do? (4:5)

How did God deal with Jonah? (4:6-11)

What did God want Jonah to understand? (4:9-11)

### QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In your view, which culture, persons, or special interest group is undeserving of God's mercy? Jonah wanted Nineveh, Israel's enemy, destroyed. When have you wanted revenge rather than restoration in a relationship?

In what way do things like pride, resentment and fear drive Jonah “the prophet” than a true understanding of who God is and His heart for people? How can that be true for us if we don’t deal with our unresolved feelings, or with unforgiveness?

In what way does the things Jonah is against get in the way of what God is for?

What hard lesson have you had to learn from God?

### **APPLY THE PASSAGE**

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?