

Jonah: Lessons in Patience

Discussion Guide

In this series we are continuing something we plan to do this with several books of the Bible. We'll talk about the general theme of the book and how that theme plays out in it, as well as in our lives today, so after we frame it you can study more on your own. We will build an overview so you don't feel lost or without an anchor in each of the books, and we encourage you to go dive deeper once you have that anchor to keep you focused.

The fancy word for what we are doing here is *exegesis*. That's your bible nerd word for the day.

We are really excited to hear about how God teaches you while you do that, so please comment on the website under the corresponding Bible Study.

Today we are talking about Jonah and the theme of the book which is Patience. You can use the search box at the bottom of every page on our website and just type in Jonah to find the discussion guide for this series as well as the comment section where you can talk to the community about what you are learning.

Jonah is about God's patience both with his prophet and with a faithless people.

Read Jonah 1:1-3. Describe what happened:

Can you see a parallel between Jonah's situation here and a time or circumstance in your life? Tell about that:

Read Jonah 2:1-2. Describe what is happening in these two verses:

From your earlier parallel to your own life, can you tell about the moment you felt like Jonah in 2:2?

Read Jonah 3:1-6. Describe what's happening:

Read God's response in Jonah 3:10. What does this tell you about God?

What can we learn about patience when we think of how God responded to Jonah?

Is God only patient with special people (like prophets)?

From these two passages, can you think of a time you felt like Jonah? Or perhaps a time when you felt like the Ninevites? Tell about that here:

What can we learn from God's patience as we think of ourselves from Jonah's point of view (Hint: Jonah was asked to bring God's word to non believers. Jonah was asked to preach that they were doing wrong.) Do you have a hard time being patient with non-believers?

Read Jonah 4:1. What's THAT about?

Read Jonah 4:4,9. What is God saying to Jonah about his anger? Do you think Jonah got the message God was trying to send?

Compare and contrast Jonah in chapter 2 to Jonah in chapter 4. What are the differences he is displaying in his behavior? What do you think is driving his faith/anger?

Have you had times like this in your life? What was driving your faith/anger at that time?

What are some practical tips or tools you can share that keep you in the right place of faith?

Here are some additional blessings from scripture about God's patience.

Numbers 14:18

'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.'

Exodus 34:6

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Nehemiah 9:16-17

"But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; They became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments. "They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them.

Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Psalm 103:8

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

Joel 2:13

And rend your heart and not your garments " Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

Romans 15:5

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Acts 13:18

"For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

Psalm 78:38

But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; And often He restrained
His anger And did not arouse all His wrath.