

FUSION Q's...Jonah Part 4:

People & Plants

Discussion Theme: Caring about what God cares about

1. Theme Question for discussion...

- ☆ How are you doing when it comes to caring about the things God cares about?

2. Read Jonah 4

3. Discussing the text

Leader's Heads up: remember the categories of people - those who claim to belong to God and those who don't belong to him

- ☆ Why do you think Jonah was so upset by God's change of plans (he did not destroy them like he said he would)?
- ☆ Did Jonah have a right to be upset? Explain why or why not.
- ☆ Jonah said he knew that God would not destroy the Ninevites. How did he know this?
- ☆ Jonah said he would rather die than not have his predictions come true. This seems a little drastic. Why do you think Jonah reacted so strongly?

Leaders note: In chapter 3 Jonah rejoices at being delivered by God but now wants to die because Nineveh is delivered - Jonah is angry for 2 reasons: 1. God's salvation is offered for all people not just those who are considered to be his people and 2. Jonah's reputation has been smeared.

4. Redirection

The book of Jonah gives us a very convicting picture of how God's people act sometimes. Sometimes God's people do not act very loving towards others; in fact, they are often very judgemental and selfish. The story of Jonah is meant to challenge the way "God's people" (today we use the term "Christians") think about people who don't yet know him. The point of Jonah is that God expects his people to care about the things he cares about - in this case about those who don't know him. The alternative is selfishness and is not an option for the follower of Jesus.

5. Digging Deeper

- ☆ Jonah was more concerned about his own comfort (the plant) than he was about the destruction of an entire city. Think about the things you care a lot about. What types of things are you concerned about in life?
- ☆ When we are concerned about something, it spurs us to do something about it (otherwise we would not really be concerned). What are you doing about the things you are concerned about?
- ☆ What kinds of things do you think God wants you to be concerned about?
Leaders note: the specific concern have we learned from Jonah's story is the concern for people who do not know Jesus
- ☆ What are you going to do about those concerns?