

Jonah: Discovering God's Heart

If someone asked you whether or not you wanted to know and understand the heart of God, you'd likely say "yes!" Join *Groundwork* as we conclude our study of Jonah, gain deeper insight into the heart of God, and witness the stark contrast between our human tendencies and God's sovereignty. As God questions and teaches Jonah, he gives us a unique opportunity to see his heart. Together, we'll marvel at the ways God continually provides in order to deliver us and meet our needs, we'll hear God's strong critique of the us vs. them mentality, and we'll recognize God's invitation to align our hearts with his. We'll close by reflecting on how we can respond to God's relentless love and abundant mercy in our own lives today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you ever get angry with God? Do you think your anger is justified? Why or why not?
- How would you describe the heart of God?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jonah: Discovering God's Heart](#)

READ [Jonah 4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What do you think comes more easily to you, Jonah's anger and lousy spiritual attitude or trust in God's compassion and mercy? Why?
- In segment 2, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee observe how frequently God provides for Jonah. How is God providing for you? Can you identify a time in your life where, like Jonah, God provided for you despite your attitude being in conflict with his heart?
- What is God's sovereignty? Why do you think Darrell asserts that "all of that exclusive club stuff...it flies in the face of God's sovereignty"?
- In [Jonah 4](#), God reveals his heart to Jonah. In verse 2, Jonah rightly identifies that God is a "gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." Darrell also observes that in Jonah "we see a God who changes not! He continues to show mercy; he continues to show compassion." Why is it helpful for us to discover God's heart? How does this reminder of God's heart and character convict or encourage you today?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 12:1-3](#), [James 2:12-13](#), [Matthew 5:7](#), [Revelation 7:9-10](#)

CONCLUSION

As they close the episode, Darrell and Scott reflect on three practical applications from the study of Jonah 4: be humble, be thankful, and don't count anybody out. Reread [Jonah 4](#) then reflect again on these closing thoughts from Darrell and Scott.

Darrell: God doesn't need any one of us, but he desires to have us a part of his redemptive plan, and that starts with our own repentance. So we need to be grateful that God actually wants us to be a part of his plan...

Scott: Did Jonah repent? Did he answer God's open question at the end of Jonah 4 the right way eventually? I sure hope he did...but again, the question is left open because I have to answer it, and Darrell, you have to answer it; and the Church today has to answer it; and hopefully our answer is: Yes; you are right to be concerned with all people, God, and so we need to be concerned with all people, too, and show them the grace of Jesus."

Close your time of reflection by praying over your answers to these questions:

- How do you answer God's open question at the end of Jonah 4?
- Who do you need to offer grace to?
- Which practical application (be humble, be thankful, or don't count anybody out) do you think you most need growth in?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jonah-discovering-gods-heart>

Printed on December 21, 2024