



Sermon Discussion Guide
Jonah: Uncomfortable Mercy
Jonah 1:1-16
Ronnie García, February 21, 2021

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. Ronnie explained that Jonah is about God's deep mercy, but then focused on two critiques evident in Jonah's life. How can identifying hard things in your life be evidence of mercy?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

DANGER OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

3. The Ninevites had a particular painful association for Israel that provoked Israel's disgust. Who in your life do you tend to have little patience for?
4. Have you ever considered that you might resent God for his mercy towards someone you believe that is "unworthy"?
5. In this story, the "bad guys" showed more faith and (a proper response) than Jonah? Can you think of an occasion in which non-believers demonstrated more virtue than Christians?

DANGER OF CULTURAL RELIGION

6. What parallels do you see in Jonah's social and civic religion with American Christianity?
7. Ronnie explained that we can know that the Lord is personal to us when we allow Him to intrude in our personal lives. Have you experienced a misguided preference to keep God in your life socially, but not personally?
8. Jonah's story illustrates that true encounters with God are not always associated with existential peace. Can you name examples in your life or in our culture where people mistook "peace" for approval?

Step 3: Final Reflections

9. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
10. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?