

SVQ Guide Week 6
Jonah 4:1-11
Scripture, Video, Questions (SVQ)

Session 1 SVQ

- Read Jonah 4:1-4
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
 - **What does Jonah's reaction to God's compassion and forgiveness toward Nineveh reveal about his understanding of justice, mercy, and the character of God?** Jonah's reaction suggests a deep-seated resentment towards Nineveh and a rigid understanding of justice that prioritizes punishment over redemption. His anger reflects a reluctance to acknowledge God's boundless mercy and His desire for repentance and reconciliation with all people, regardless of their past sins. This raises profound questions about the nature of divine justice and human compassion, challenging us to reflect on our own attitudes towards forgiveness and reconciliation.
 - **How does Jonah's plea for death in Jonah 4:3 reflect his spiritual state and his struggle with God's will for Nineveh?** Jonah's plea for death reveals the depth of his despair and disillusionment with God's plan for Nineveh's salvation. His request to die rather than witness God's compassion towards the city suggests a profound sense of hopelessness and a desire to escape from his role as a prophet. This highlights the tension between Jonah's personal desires and God's sovereign purposes, prompting us to consider the complexities of obedience and surrender in our own lives.
 - **What lessons can we learn from God's response to Jonah's anger and frustration in Jonah 4:4, particularly His question "Is it right for you to be angry?"** God's question challenges Jonah to confront the righteousness of his anger and the validity of his perspective. It prompts Jonah to reflect on the underlying motivations behind his emotions and to consider whether his response aligns with God's will and character. This teaches us the importance of examining our own attitudes and reactions in light of God's truth, inviting us to align our hearts with His perspective of love, mercy, and compassion towards all people, even those we may struggle to forgive.

Session 2 SVQ

- Read Jonah 4:5-9
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom

- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
 - **What do Jonah's actions and attitudes towards the plant and the city of Nineveh reveal about his character and spiritual journey, and how does this relate to themes of mercy, compassion, and justice?** Jonah's reaction to the plant's growth and subsequent demise reflects his selfishness and lack of empathy, as he mourns the loss of something that provided him comfort but shows indifference towards the lives of the people of Nineveh. This highlights Jonah's struggle to reconcile his desire for justice with God's mercy towards the repentant Ninevites. It challenges us to consider our own attitudes towards forgiveness and compassion, especially towards those we may perceive as undeserving.
 - **How does God's dialogue with Jonah in Jonah 4:6-8 reveal His character as a patient and compassionate God, and what can we learn from His response to Jonah's anger and discontent?** God's gentle rebuke of Jonah's anger and concern for the plant emphasizes His compassion and concern for all His creation, including both humans and vegetation. God's patient explanation to Jonah highlights His desire for reconciliation and restoration, even towards those who have rebelled against Him. This teaches us about God's unfailing love and His willingness to extend grace and forgiveness to all who repent, regardless of their past actions or attitudes.
 - **How does Jonah's experience with the plant and the worm serve as a metaphor for our own attitudes towards God's provision, mercy, and sovereignty, and what does it reveal about the human condition?** Jonah's emotional attachment to the plant and his distress over its destruction reflect our tendency to prioritize our own comfort and desires over the well-being of others. This illustrates the human struggle to trust in God's timing and sovereignty, especially when His plans conflict with our own preferences. It prompts us to examine our hearts and consider how we respond to God's blessings and challenges in our lives, and whether we are willing to submit to His will with humility and trust.

Session 3 SVQ

- Read Jonah 4:10-11
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **What lessons can we learn from God's response to Jonah's anger, including His patience, gentleness, and willingness to teach and correct His servant?** God's response to Jonah's anger demonstrates His patience and compassion towards His wayward servant, despite his stubbornness and disobedience. Instead of rebuking Jonah harshly, God gently teaches and corrects him, seeking to help him understand the depth of His love and mercy. This illustrates God's desire for reconciliation and restoration in His relationship with Jonah, as well as His commitment to patiently guide and transform His servants. It challenges us to reflect on our own responses to adversity and correction, and to emulate God's patience and gentleness in our interactions with others.
- **How does God's comparison of Nineveh and Jonah's concerns challenge our perception of justice and mercy, and what implications does this have for our own attitudes toward those we perceive as undeserving of grace?** God's comparison of Nineveh and Jonah's concerns emphasizes the universal scope of His love and compassion. It challenges our tendency to prioritize our own interests and judgments over God's redemptive purposes. This invites reflection on our attitudes toward others, particularly those we may view as unworthy or undeserving of grace, and prompts us to align our hearts with God's expansive love and mercy.
- **In what ways does God's final statement to Jonah in Jonah 4:11 reveal His heart for all people, regardless of nationality or circumstance, and how does this challenge our own perceptions of who deserves God's love and compassion?** God's final statement underscores His deep concern for all people, including those who may seem insignificant or unworthy in human eyes. It challenges our tendency to categorize people based on external factors and reminds us of God's impartiality and boundless love. This prompts reflection on our own attitudes and prejudices, inviting us to embrace God's inclusive love and extend compassion to all, just as He does.