

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style. For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Resilience. The human capacity to get up again and again after falling down; the ability to recover quickly from many difficulties. A new year typically sparks excitement for new opportunities, plans, dreams, and goals. And yet, at the beginning of this new year we still find ourselves in the middle of a worldwide health crisis and an amended way of life. Hope is on the horizon, but we know any semblance of normal, or even a "new normal," is still months away. What we need now is resilience. What we need now is the firm foundation of scripture and our Christian tradition that show us that our faith is resilient because of the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Join us this January as we review practices for cultivating hope in the midst of incredible suffering through meaning, creativity, and community.

Message Synopsis

Some call him a hero of the faith. Some, an anti-hero. If a hero, he was definitively a reluctant one. Called by God to go to Nineveh and swallowed by a big fish when he disobeyed. When he finally went to Nineveh, he delivered the shortest sermon ever, and then waited on a hillside and complained when God did not destroy the people he hated. Jonah may have obeyed the word of the Lord, but he did not allow it to work in him to change his heart or attitude. The story of Jonah reminds us that, though we may be reluctant to do what needs to be done, we can cultivate resilience as we check our attitudes and postures of hope before God.

Key Scriptures

Jonah 1-4

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What stuck out to you about Jonah's story? Could you relate to any part of it? Or did a new part resonate with you differently given this season?
2. Have you ever had a really bad attitude about something God asked of you? How did it play out? Did your heart or attitude change? What did you learn from the experience?
3. Have an attitude check together: How are you feeling right now? How is it with your heart and soul? Is there any area of your life where you know you need to have a better attitude or outlook? How can we help?
4. What is your biggest take-away from the story of Jonah?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “The Book of Jonah: Session 8 – Jonah 4:5-11” by Eric Mason (6min)

(located in the “Renovation Group Bible Studies” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/225914?episode=8>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Think of a time when your heart was hardened toward someone else. How did God show you mercy (or how is He still showing you mercy) in the midst of your bitterness? How have you experienced transformation as a result?
3. What have the circumstances of the last year revealed to you about your heart (good and/or bad)? What is God calling you to do about it? How is this revelation changing the way you love God, yourself, and others?
4. How do you see God working in the church during this time? What do you perceive Him to be revealing to our community as a whole, and where do you see Him leading us to change as a church as a result of the past year? What is God asking your role to be in this change?
5. Take some time to name your enemies and pray for them as a group. They may be people groups, individuals, or even circumstances that are coming against you or our church this week. Pray for loving hearts, pray for transformation, pray for unity, pray for grace, and pray that what God is doing to redeem our circumstances right now would not be missed to bitter hearts.

Family-Related Questions:

1. Jonah is a great way to talk to your children about doing the right thing even when they don't want to. And it can be a great way to talk to your kids about loving their enemies. Consider watching a Jonah story with your kids (like the VeggieTales Jonah movie for younger children, or *How to Read Jonah* on RightNow Media for older children - <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/213060>) and then discussing it freely with them this week in relation to their own experiences.
2. Where have you seen God send mercy to your children in the midst of their belligerence or mistakes? How can you use Jonah's story to help your children recognize this mercy and give them courage to get up and try again?
3. Reflect on your own belligerence and mistakes before God. Consider the mercy He has shown you. How easy is it for you show the same kind of mercy and compassion to your children? Explain.
4. God lovingly rescues Jonah over and over again, while at the same time disciplining Jonah's wrong attitude. Where (if at all) do you find this balance in your parenting? Which is easier for you – mercy or discipline? What steps can you take this week to find greater balance between the two?