

## Discussion Guide

### *Heart Check: Messengers wk2 Reluctant Messenger, Jonah*

May 7, 2023



#### Big Idea

To be a most effective messenger, our heart has to align with God's heart.



#### Icebreaker

Do you recall learning, or hearing about, the story of Jonah as a child? If so, what do you recall being focused upon in what you learned or heard? Was that applicable to your life, or not? If it was not, how can we avoid repeating such misses with the upcoming generations?



#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Jonah 1:2. What got the attention of God regarding Nineveh? What does this tell us about what God loves, or what is in His heart (hint: it's the opposite of what got His attention)? For further clarification, or if stuck, read Isaiah 61:8 and Psalm 11:7. Why do you think God feels the way He does about wickedness?
2. Read Jonah 1:17. Though Jonah went in a direction opposite of what God desired, what do we see God do for him here? What does this indicate that God continues to do for us though we go our own way often times? For further clarification, or if stuck, read Matthew 18:12-14. What are some ways in your life that God continued to pursue you, though you went in the opposite direction from Him?
3. Read Jonah 3:6-10. This section of scripture (especially vs. 10) shows us that God would rather f\_\_\_\_\_ than p\_\_\_\_\_. The following has been known to be said: *what someone thinks about God, is the most important thing they think*. Do you believe, *like really believe*, that God would rather *forgive* than *punish*? Do you treat yourself as if this is true? How about in how you treat or view others? Are there certain circumstances or people/people groups that you struggle with this? Know that you are not alone in this, in our humanity we tend to struggle with taking judgement into our own hands. But how can one grow in this area to have a heart more like God's?
4. Read Jonah 4:1-10. God uses the leafy plant to teach Jonah (and us) an object lesson. What is it in your own words? To what situation(s) in your life does this object lesson apply? How do you need to respond to this object lesson?
5. Read Jonah 1:1-3. As you think about a focus of our sermon series, Heart Check: Messengers...that we are to Go & Tell, what do we see Jonah do here that we, at all costs, must avoid allowing to infiltrate our life? We have likely *all* done as Jonah did here, but can you say that over the time of your faith journey that you have grown in not doing as he did? What examples do you have that serve as evidence of this being true? What is your next step of growth here?



#### Concluding Question

A concluding thought in the sermon was that in Jonah we see his *terrible burden of wanting to get his own way*. Why is this dangerous to our life and to God's ultimate mission along with His ways of going about that mission?



#### Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



#### Prayer

Pray that all who sensed the Spirit move this Sunday, encouraging them to engage in a Global Mission Trip/Project of some sort, will heed the Spirit and be blessed while being a blessing!