

Left From Right

2024-06-04 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jonah 4:11

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The book of Jonah ends with God asking a question: should I not care about a city of more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left? That is God's heart for people who do not know him: compassion, not judgment. Pastor Matt said that is his tunnel vision for this valley, where most people have never really known God. And the church exists to reach them, not to shuffle church people around.

To get started

- Who in your life has never really been to church, and what do you think they imagine it is like?

Looking back at the message

This was a vision sermon. It is worth restating what the church says it exists to do.

- 1 Pastor Matt told a story about an interview dinner at the nicest restaurant in Little Rock, where nobody had taught him the table manners and he did not know what he did not know. When have you been the one who did not know the rules?
- 2 Pastor Matt noticed that people who know the Bible best sometimes become the most judgmental toward people who do not know it at all. Why do you think that happens?
- 3 Quoting God's last words in Jonah, Pastor Matt said his focus is the people in this valley who spiritually cannot tell their right hand from their left. How does that focus shape how you see this church? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Jonah 4:10-11 and then Luke 15:1-7. Both are about God's posture toward the lost.

- 4 Read Jonah 4:11. What reason does God give for his concern?
- 5 God defends the Ninevites by pointing at what they do not know. What does that tell you about how he sees people far from him?
- 6 Read Luke 15:1-7. Who does the shepherd go after, and what does he do when he finds it?
- 7 Read Romans 12:1. What does offering your body as a living sacrifice have to do with all this? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He said serving is where sanctification happens. That is the practical step here.

- 8 Which comes easier to you: judging people who do not know God, or compassion for them? What shaped that?
- 9 Pastor Matt said teaching kids forced him to learn the Bible faster than reading alone ever did. Where would serving stretch you like that?
- 10 What did someone do for you back when you knew nothing?
- 11 What are you doing with the knowledge you already have? OPTIONAL

The group together

This is about a whole city, not only individuals. Keep the frame wide.

- 12 City projections say Buckeye could hit a million people by 2040. What does that kind of growth mean for a church here?
- 13 Who does this group know who has never once been invited to anything at church?
- 14 What is one thing this group could do for people outside it in the next month?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Who is one person you will treat with patience and compassion this week instead of judgment?

You might pray about

- For people in this city who have never heard the message
- For compassion to replace judgment in us
- For a next step into serving