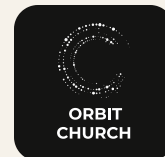


Why Are You Angry?

2024-05-27 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jonah 3:10-4

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

Jonah chapter 4 is a strange ending. God grew a plant to shade Jonah, then sent a worm to kill it, then a scorching wind. Jonah was furious about the plant. He was angrier about losing his shade than about a city of a hundred twenty thousand people who could not tell right from left. Pastor Matt's point is that anger is a reliable report on what we actually value. And God's concerns are simply bigger than ours. A thing does not have to feel fair to us to be right at a level above our own.

To get started

- What made you angry this week, and what does that anger say about what you value?

Looking back at the message

The book ends on a question God asks Jonah, and Jonah never answers. That silence is deliberate.

- 1 Pastor Matt said we get angry when God blesses people we think do not deserve it. When have you felt that?
- 2 Jonah was furious over losing a plant he did nothing to grow. What are you protective of that you did not actually build?
- 3 Jonah was consumed with his shade while God was concerned about a whole city. Where is the gap between your concerns and God's concerns the widest right now? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Jonah 3:10 through 4:11. It is short and the ending is a question left hanging.

- 4 Read Jonah 4:1-3. Why is Jonah angry, and what does he say about God's character that he apparently holds against God?
- 5 Read verses 6-8. God provides a plant, then a worm, then a wind. What lesson is God setting up with those three things?
- 6 Read verse 11. The whole book ends on God's question, and Jonah's answer is never recorded. Why do you think it ends that way?
- 7 Read Matthew 22:37-39. Jesus commands love for God and love for neighbor. Who do we usually leave off that list? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Some in the room have been genuinely wronged. Do not push forgiveness as a quick fix, and point toward real pastoral help when needed.

- 8 Be honest: is there a specific person you would struggle to watch God bless?
- 9 God sent Jonah to Nineveh, the capital of the empire that had brutalized his people. Pastor Matt said God may call you toward the very people who wronged you. How does that sit with you?
- 10 Pastor Matt tells his son that a thing does not have to feel fair to him to be right at a higher level. Where do you need to hear that yourself right now?
- 11 What are you angry about these days, and what is actually underneath it? OPTIONAL

The group together

If a story of real harm comes up, listen rather than resolve it, and follow up personally afterward.

- 12 Why is it easier to feel compassion for strangers than for people who have hurt us?
- 13 Every group has people it finds hard to care about. Who is that for this group?
- 14 What would it look like, practically, for this group to care about what God cares about?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is God concerned with that you have not been concerned with?

You might pray about

- For anger that is covering something deeper
- For people in the group who have been genuinely wronged
- For compassion toward people we would rather see judged