



Jonah: Getting Angry With God

Date: Sunday 26th July

Speaker: Adam Pipe

Key Verses: Jonah 3:10 & 4:1-3

Talk Summary:

The book of Jonah is brilliant because as we read it we feel superior to Jonah and think what an idiot, I would never act like that! And it is as if the writer says 'gotcha' and shines a light on what is inside us. Jonah angry with God sees God's actions as evil. Jonah falls into same trap as Adam & Eve wanting to be in position of God and judge between good and evil. God wants to free us from judgment.

We all struggle with anger. Some of us are angry with God – need to pour it out to him. Assyria were the Nazis of Jonah's day. No wonder Jonah was angry and reacted as he did. This is the scandal of God's grace. God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love and relents from destroying people. We are to reflect the character of God to those around us. Jesus follows on from Jonah and calls us to radical enemy love. Ultimately Jesus' radical enemy love led him to the cross. Our enemies are a gift to us and hold up a mirror to our hearts.

Worship

- Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?
 - o More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What do you do when you get in a strop? (link to Jonah storming off to sulk in Ch 4)
- In what ways do we tend to judge people? (could lead to a discussion on unconsciously judging people by colour of skin if appropriate)

- How do we get free from judgment? (Adam talked about getting our life from Christ and practicing blessing)
- What makes us angry?
- Adam quoted Dallas Willard *'But there is nothing that can be done with anger that cannot be done better without it.'* What do you think of this quote
- Are there times when you have been angry with God?
- How would you feel if God called you to go and preach to ISIS and you knew God would forgive them?
- In what ways can we better reflect God's character to those around us?
- Who are our enemies today?
- How do we practice radical enemy love on a day to day basis?

Prophetic words that were shared on Sunday:

You may want to share these with your group and see if any of them resonate with anyone. Then take time to pray for each other.

-Jesus talking to his disciples before the last supper, pray for the community that they would know more of God "I am in you, you and in me and they are in me". Knowing more of God, a hunger to . A hunger for eternity, a hunger to know the depths of God.

-Make every effort to add to your faith, and to goodness knowledge.

-Image of flat, round plant pot, bulbs planted in dark healthy soil. From these bulbs you can see different colours sprouting out. A sense of growth, it might be slow, but it is growth. Wish there was more happening, but don't worry, God is doing it, the growth will come.

-Before the service some of us were praying and had an image of an ice skater trying to skate with loose skates, but were all wobbly. God came and tightened the laces and they were able to skate firmly and strong. This might be something He wants to do today in us, tighten the laces within us to help us enter our week strong, firm and confident.

-Firm Faith - "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." (Exodus 14:13). With this I was reminded of the words from the song Spirit Lead Me "This is my worship, this is my offering, in every moment I withhold nothing. I'm learning to trust you. Even when I can't see it and even in suffering, I have to believe it. If you say "it's wrong" then I'll say "no". If you say "release", I'm letting go. If you're in it with me, I'll begin. And when you say to jump, I'm diving in. If you say "be still", then I will wait. If you say to trust, I will obey. I don't want to follow my own ways, I'm done chasing feelings. Spirit lead me."