## STUDY

## Digging Deeper into "Jonah 4"

- 1. Start by reading Jonah 4 as a group.
- 2. What key events from Jonah chapter 3 lead into chapter 4? In particular, how did the Ninevites respond to Jonah's message?
- 3. How would you summarize Jonah's reaction to Nineveh's repentance in your own words?
- 4. Why do you think Jonah was so angry at God's mercy toward Nineveh?
- 5. How does Jonah's prayer in chapter 4 differ from his prayer in chapter 2? What does that reveal about his heart?
- 6. Describe the sequence of events with the plant, worm, and wind in Jonah 4:6-8, and how God uses them to teach Jonah.
- 7. What does God's repeated question—"Is it right for you to be angry?"—show us about His posture toward Jonah?
- 8. Why do you think the book of Jonah ends without telling us Jonah's response? What lesson is that meant to leave with us?
- 9.Jonah describes God as "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." How have you personally experienced these qualities of God?
- 10. Why do you think Jonah struggled to rejoice in these attributes when they were extended to his enemies?
- 11. How does Jonah's anger at God's mercy expose areas where we might want justice for others but grace for ourselves?
- 12. What "plants" in your life (comforts, idols, desires) are you tempted to love more than people's souls?

- 13. When God takes away comforts or things we rely on, how do you usually respond?
- 14.Jonah's "god" was national security and pride in his people. What things besides God are you tempted to make ultimate in your life?
- 15.Where do you see a divided heart in yourself—trying to serve both God and something else?
- 16.What does Jonah's story teach us about loving our enemies in light of Jesus' command in Matthew 5?
- 17. How can our small group grow in reflecting God's mercy and compassion toward those we naturally resist loving?
- 18. Who might be the "Ninevites" in your life—people you find hard to imagine God showing mercy to?
- 19.What practices can help reorient our hearts so God remains our first love and all other loves fall into their right place?
- 20.How does the gospel free us from clinging to comfort, reputation, or nationalism as our hope?
- 21.If the story of Jonah reveals the danger of a divided heart, what would it look like for Jesus to be truly King of your heart this week—in your thoughts, relationships, and decisions?
- 22.As we wrap up the study in Jonah, what is one main thing the Lord desires for you to know and live out?

## **PRAYER**

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