

## Caring for Our Enemies

### Jonah 1-4

#### 1-26-2022 Virtual Bible Study

1. The Lord commanded Jonah to preach to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire (1:1-2), and Jonah ran in the opposite direction (1:3). What things might have caused Jonah to despise and/or fear Nineveh?

2. What were the consequences of Jonah's attempt to escape God's will (1:4-17)?

3. Read Jonah 2. How did Jonah describe his experience?

What descriptions speak most vividly to you?

4. Read Jonah 3. Why did Jonah finally go to Nineveh (3:1-3)?

5. What effect do you think Jonah's experience with the fish had on his preaching?

6. How should God's mercy to us affect our willingness to talk to our enemies about Jesus Christ?

7. What is surprising about the response of the people of Nineveh (3:5-9)?

8. Read Jonah 4. What was Jonah's reaction when the Lord spared Nineveh (4:1-3)?

9. In light of Jonah's reaction, what must he have felt as he was preaching to Nineveh?

10. How did God use the plant to show Jonah that he should have had compassion for Nineveh (4:5-11)?

11. Describe at least two situations in the world where people would be tempted to reason like Jonah.

12. Are there groups of people that you are tempted to write off as Jonah did with Nineveh? Why?

Pray for the people you mentioned in questions 11 and 12. Try to see these people as God sees them, remembering that just as God's compassion extended to Nineveh, it extends to whoever you have called to mind.