

IV. THE DISCOVERY OF JONAH

A. The book of Jonah abruptly ends with a question from God.

Jonah is not our last thought, but the narrative ends with God expressing His care for the unsaved.

“10 But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?” Jonah 4:10-11

*“3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* I Timothy 2:3-4

B. God cares revelation #4:

God shows care by desiring salvation.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9

“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:47

GO DEEPER WITH GOD THROUGH CARE!!

GOING DEEPER

How The Book Of Jonah Can Help Us Go Deeper With God Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Care Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. You have heard it said, you can run, but you can’t hide! Let’s face it we’ve all tried to run from God. Jonah was a person who tried to run from God. Through this experience God lovingly responded by helping Jonah to understand His true nature. This understanding resulted in Jonah having a deeper relationship with God.

*“But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”*
Jonah 2:9

The book of Jonah is not primarily about a big fish, but rather about a big GOD! There are only forty eight verses in this book. The fish is mentioned three times and God is mentioned forty two times!

B. Unbelief has attacked this book probably more than any other book of the Bible. Jesus validated that Jonah was a real person who experienced a real miracle that represented an Old Testament type of Jesus (Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40-41).

C. Attend Going Deeper and go overboard and into the deep with God by understanding His true nature:

June 5	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Discipline
June 12	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Control
June 19	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Listening
June 26	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Forgiveness
TODAY	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God’s Care

D. TEXT: Jonah 4:1-11

This passage shows Jonah pouting towards God. It helps you to understand how God cares.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S CARE

I. THE DISPLEASURE OF JONAH

- A. Jonah's first sin was running from God (1:1-3) and how we see Jonah trying to run God.

"1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

4 Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah 4:1-4

- B. God cares revelation #1:

God shows care by asking questions.

II. THE DISCOMFORT OF JONAH

- A. Once again (1:5-17), God controlled the environment to deal with Jonah's sin:

- God prepared a plant.

"And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant." Jonah 4:6

- God prepared a worm.

"But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered." Jonah 4:7

- God prepared the wind and the sun (v 8)

"And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." Jonah 4:8

"11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;

12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights." Proverbs 3:11-12

- B. God cares revelation #2:

God shows care by loving correction.

III. THE DEFIANCE OF JONAH

- A. Once again (1:1-4), Jonah rebels against God.

He loves a plant, but hates an entire group of people.

"Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah 4:9

"19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance." Acts 26:19-20

- B. God cares revelation #3:

God shows care by demonstrating equality.

"12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Matthew 9:12-13

"8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8-10

