

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

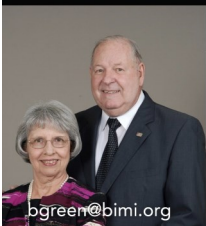
A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Bob & Patsy Green | Hispanic Ministry

PRAISE - A special blessing received was the opportunity to preach in the 25th Anniversary of the Iglesia Bautista Internacional of Astoria, New York City.

PRAISE - Missionary Adam Fridenstine is editing the 14 lessons on Planting Autonomous Churches that I recorded in these days and will be putting them online for several seminary students from Cojutepeque, El Salvador, to study as a part of their seminary training. God is also blessing the Fridenstines in their church planting ministry and efforts to train laborers for the harvest. Of course, it is a great privilege to be able to record these Spanish materials to help with the training of national ministers.

going deeper

growth guide

Handout: 06/26/22

Study: 07/03/22

Deeper In Our Understanding of God’s Care

God asked, Is it right for you to be angry about the plant? Jonah retorted that he was not only angry that his shade was gone, but that he was ready to die over it (Jonah 4:9). That’s when the Lord unloaded on Jonah with a dose of divine wisdom: You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow.... But may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people ...? (4:10–11).

In other words, while Jonah was miserable over the loss of a twenty-four hour plant that he had absolutely nothing to do with, he was willing to watch thousands of people created in God’s image die and go to hell. And, though Jonah liked it when God cared for him and provided him with shade from the heat, when God wanted to care for sinners who couldn’t distinguish between their right and their left (4:11)—that is, young children—Jonah got bent out of shape. God’s prophet may have had God’s words, but he didn’t have God’s heart.

Do you have God’s heart for others? You cannot desire God’s goodness for yourself but refuse to minister his goodness to others who need it, too. You cannot be a recipient of God’s grace but not a dispenser of it.

The book ends abruptly, leaving us to wonder what happened to Jonah. Did he die in his bitterness? Did he return to God in repentance? Why does the story end here? It closes where it does because God is asking the readers of the book what he’s asking Jonah: How can you be heartless toward sinners when you know what you have been saved from? After all, if not for God’s providential work in your life, you would never have come to Christ. So will you be transformed by the grace of God and serve as his instrument of grace?

In Matthew’s Gospel, we learn that the unbelieving scribes and Pharisees were demanding a sign from Jesus. He told them that they would be given “the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Matt 12:38–39). “For as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights” (Matt 12:40).

When Jonah came out of the fish, he carried a message of repentance to Nineveh. God showed compassion on Nineveh through the symbolic death and resurrection of a prophet. But in Jesus Christ, he showed mercy on you and me by the actual death and resurrection of the Son of God. Indeed, then, “Something greater than Jonah is here” (Matt 12:41). If a rebel prophet could turn Nineveh around, Jesus Christ can certainly turn around the circumstances in our lives. This, as Paul calls it, is “the surpassing grace of God” (2 Cor 9:14).

Source: *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary* by Tony Evans

KEY VERSE

Jonah 4:11 (NKJV)

“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?”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Jonah 4; Psalm 103:8-14

Introduction

1. List ways in which God shows His care in Jonah 4.
2. The reading on the cover asks “Do you have God’s heart for others?” How do you answer that question? Why?

Tuesday: Jonah 4:1-4; Luke 10:29-37; James 1:19-20

The Displeasure Of Jonah

3. What words or phrases would you use to describe Jonah’s prayer?
4. Describe a time in your life when God showed His care for you by asking you a question.

Wednesday: Jonah 4:5-8; Proverbs 3:11-12; Psalm 30

The Discomfort Of Jonah

5. After all Jonah had been through his heart was still disobedient. How did God choose to provide correction?
6. How is God’s correction proof that He loves you?

Thursday: Jonah 4:9; Matthew 9:12-13; Acts 26:19-20

The Defiance Of Jonah

7. Why do you think Jonah’s heart was so defiant? Why was Jonah so angry even after his miraculous deliverance from the fish?
8. What are some things that you get angry about? Based upon what God has done for us, how legitimate is your anger?
9. Spend some time considering your life. Are there areas in which you are defying God? If so, spend time in prayer talking to God about it.

Friday: Jonah 4:10-11; I Timothy 2:3-4; II Peter 3:9

The Discovery Of Jonah

10. What does today’s readings teach us about God’s heart for others?
11. List ways in which God has shown his grace to you. How can you share this with others who don’t know His grace?
12. List one thing that you have learned about yourself through our study of Jonah. List one thing you have learned about God.