

The Story so Far...Jonah is told to go and preach against the city of Nineveh because it is a wicked city in trouble because of its wickedness. Jonah has no intentions of listening and so off he runs. God pursues him and gets him to the bottom of the sea. Jonah came to his senses, obeyed God, went to Nineveh, preached what God told him to preach and then watched as the city was transformed in response to God's Word! That would have made a wonderful short story... but it's not over yet! In chapter 4, we come to a twist in the tale and the wonderful point of this story.

Remember the hero of the story is God, so we need to keep asking ourselves 'What does this show me about God?'. The story also exposes Jonah's heart and we need to allow God to expose the state of our own hearts by asking ourselves 'How am I like Jonah?'.

READ Jonah 4

Look at v1-3 How did Jonah feel when God forgave the Ninevites?

Why does he feel like this? Why had Jonah run away when God originally told him to go to Nineveh?

How are we like Jonah?

How is God different to Jonah? What does this teach us about God?

READ vv 4-10 How does God respond to Jonah?

Why does he act in this way?

What was Jonah's main concern?

How are we like Jonah?

What was God's main concern?

Are we like that? Do we get anywhere near as emotional over the fact that we live in a city where more than 500,000 people don't know God? Do we really care? Let's be honest, what of those people we don't actually like and who don't know God? What of those who, for whatever reason, we think aren't ready to hear the gospel? Are we in a position to judge that? Is our personal agenda withholding the gospel of a compassionate God from these people?

What does this show us about God?

How should we respond?