

Engaging God's Compassion

A study on God's compassion in the book of Jonah

Jonah 4: Being Angry at God's Compassion

1. What really gets you angry? A pet peeve that supremely frustrates you?
2. Have you ever been angry at something that you knew was something that you should be forgiving or compassionate towards (either at the time or afterward)? (eg. driving behind a slow person, a mom unable to fully quiet down a toddler or a spouse that made a mistake)
3. Hesed is a word that has deep rich meaning. Lovingkindness, kindness or just love are a few of the translations. It is a love that is unfailing, dependent of God's character and represents God's unfailing commitment to love His people. God loves His children with hesed. What does this mean for you today, even right now?
4. Personal opinion or preference is often what makes us angry in life and this is not right. Jonah's personal opinion of who God should show compassion to infuriated him. Is there anything in your life this week that might give you the chance to ask, "Is it right for me to be angry?"
5. What do you think about how seeds and other similar acts of nature work? We cannot manufacture them in any lab and they have everything they need to grow into beautiful plants and trees.
6. Jonah feels entitled to the plant even though he did nothing for it. What are some things in your life you may have done nothing for but at times can feel you are entitled to?
7. A good way to combat entitlement is with humility. What is something in your life this week you can show humility in rather than entitlement?
8. What is the hardest or most labor-intensive job you have ever done?
9. Read Matthew 20:1-16. If you were one of the early workers would you feel entitled? If you were one of the late workers would you feel embarrassed?
10. Do you feel like you deserve God's compassion?