

Discussion Questions Course 201–1

Large Group

1. Who thinks Jonah tried to run away from what God wanted him to do?
2. Did Joy believe that the girl who stole the bike deserved mercy?
3. What did Joy want to happen to the girl?
4. What exactly is mercy, anyway?

Small Group

Game

1. In our story today, why did Jonah run from God?
2. What do you think God was trying to show Jonah by choosing him to bring God's message of mercy to the Ninevites?
3. How did Joy's attitude change about punishing the girl who stole the bike after seeing how God dealt with Nineveh?
4. When you were looking through the papers, did anybody see the words punishment or judgment?
5. Did you ever doubt that there was mercy in the container for you?
6. What did each of you find when you went to the box representing God?

Teaching

1. Were you amazed by the patience and mercy that God showed to Jonah and the wicked city of Nineveh?
2. God truly does show mercy to all people. Was Jonah happy and eager to follow God's instructions? What did He do?
3. Jonah prayed inside the fish—he desperately needed mercy! Did he receive it?
4. But after God answered his prayer, did Jonah understand that Nineveh needed mercy, too?
5. Romans 6:23a. The worker expected pay for the work done and got what was deserved. What do we earn when we sin?
6. Oh no, that's not good! Do we really want what we deserve?
7. The Bible says that we have all sinned. So, what is the wage we earn for our sins—what do we deserve to receive?

Discipleship Challenge

1. What does the fish remind us of?
2. Did you know that the fish is also an ancient Christian symbol?
3. Hold up one of the fish cards. Have you ever seen this fish-shape with Greek letters inside?

SuperVerse

1. When the people of Nineveh repented, was Jonah happy or angry?
2. Have you ever been so angry or bitter toward someone that you wanted God to punish them immediately?

Prayer

1. Jonah did not want to take God's message of mercy and forgiveness to the Ninevite people, yet he wanted God's mercy for himself. How do you feel about that—is that the attitude we should have as followers of Christ?

Additional Activities

Dodge Ball Game

1. What did it feel like to hit someone with mercy and then to get hit with it in return?

Bible Study

Zechariah 7:8–10

1. Who do you think is the Lord of Heaven's armies?
2. Why is it important to judge someone fairly, and how can we do that?
3. How does this verse apply to Joy's initial reaction to the girl who stole the bicycle in the Superbook adventure?
4. What do widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor have in common?
5. Do you think God values any person over another?
6. What are we to show one another?

Titus 3:5

1. Do we earn or deserve salvation based on anything we do?
2. Why did God choose to save us?
3. Is it right, based on what God did for us, not to show mercy or kindness to someone who has wronged us in some way?
4. How does this verse apply to the Ninevites?
5. Do you think Jonah ever changed his attitude toward the Ninevites?

James 2:13

1. Does this verse surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Can you think of something God has done for us and expects us to do for others?
3. Why do you think people like Jonah ask mercy from God but don't want to show mercy to others?
4. Is it always easy to show mercy—especially when you don't particularly care for someone's ways or attitude?
5. How can we show mercy to difficult people; do we have help?

Craft

1. What does God want us to do with His mercy that flows to us?