

## The 12: Jonah - Three

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **God uses questions to serve us**

Telling us what is true is far less helpful than inviting our curiosity about the truth.

\*Why do you think questions motivate more change than just speaking truth?

\*How has God used questions in your life to serve you?

Read and discuss Jonah 4:4-11 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

\*What do these verses teach us about God? What do they say about Jonah?

\*Where do you see yourself in this passage?

\*What do you see in the questions God is asking?

#### **Jonah had fallen in love with temporary shade**

When we focus on the comfort of the shade, we may miss the new things God is trying to do.

\*What temporary shade might you have fallen in love with?

\*What do you need to grieve the end of and turn the page from?

#### **God wants to lift our eyes from our agenda to His agenda**

We just have to care about the things he asks us to care about.

\*Where have you experienced spiritual disappointment when it seemed God was not in your agenda?

\*How do we determine what God is asking us to care about?

\*How are you making space for God's questions in your life?

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\***    [Jonah and the Gourd Vine](#) by Jack Baumgartner

**Song for reflection**    [I'm Listening](#) by Chris McClarney