

JONAH

The Depths of Grace

CROSSWINDS

SHALL I NOT PITY THE CITY OF SPENCER?

NOVEMBER 9

JONAH 3:1-10

MAIN IDEA

God's grace is for "in here" and "out there"—both the religious and the rebellious desperately need the grace of God that is found in Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Looking back on your life, when were you most proud of yourself? Why?

In what ways was your pride justified? In what ways might your pride have been unjustified?

> READ JONAH 4:1-4 AND LUKE 15:25-30.

Compare and contrast the Ninevites with the younger son (see Luke 15:11-24).

Compare and contrast the older son with Jonah. What about God angered Jonah (Jonah 4:2)? What about his father angered the older son (Luke 15:27-30)?

Have you ever been annoyed or even angered by the grace God showed to another person? Why did you feel that way?

How did Jonah's anger affect his relationship with God (Jonah 4:3)? What does that tell us about the dangers of responding to God's grace with bitterness?

> READ JONAH 4:5-11 AND LUKE 15:31.

How did God respond to Jonah's self-contentedness (vv. 5-9)? What does the fact that God shaded Jonah from the heat despite Jonah's deep bitterness tell us about God?

Why did God take the shade plant away from Jonah (vv. 9-11)? What was God teaching Jonah about His grace? What was God revealing to Jonah about his bitterness?

How did the father respond to the older son's bitterness (Luke 15:31)? What does this tell us about God's grace?

On Sunday, we learned that "God does not operate on the level of religion but on the level of the gospel." What is the difference between the two? Why is it good news for us that God operates on the level of the gospel?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What does it reveal about the condition of our hearts when we respond to God's grace toward others with bitterness? How might we guard against such a response?

The older son did all the right things for the wrong reasons. His heart was not focused on loving and honoring his father. What right things are you often tempted to do for the wrong reasons?

On Sunday, we learned that "God's grace is for 'in here' and 'out there.'" How might this realization change the way we think about ourselves? How might it change the way we reach out to the lost in Spencer? What can we do to reach out this week?