



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Story of Jonah

Speaker: Sherin Swift - Pastor of Connections & Equipping

Scriptures: Jonah 4

Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

4 But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

5 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. 6 Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[a] 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. 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 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."

9 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."

10 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. 11 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?"

Sermon Summary:

You've probably heard about Jonah and the whale—but what if the best part of the story comes afterward? This Sunday, we'll continue our Sunday School series by diving into Jonah's journey. We'll talk about something we don't often discuss: what to do when we're frustrated and angry—even when that frustration is aimed at God.

Sermon Questions:

1. What is your favorite meme or online clip? Pastor Sherin showed a [clip of a man](#) in a kayak being swallowed by a whale in Chile last year.
2. Pastor Sherin shared, "God is not satisfied with Jonah receiving mercy. He wants Jonah to be transformed by mercy." In what ways have you been transformed by mercy or do you sense God inviting you to open yourself to being transformed by mercy currently?

3. Name a time in your life where you felt angry and/or frustrated with God. Did you feel the freedom to be honest with God about how you felt? Why or why not?

God was not satisfied with Jonah's polished prayer. He wanted Jonah to be honest with him in prayer. God wants you to be honest with him too. We have a faith that encourages us to ask questions and make complaints.

4. Pastor Sherin shared a picture of many of us withering under the hot sun, like Jonah, because we haven't felt free to be honest with God or haven't been willing to fully surrender our lives to Jesus and/or trust God with ours or others' futures. In what (if any) area of your life or faith do you feel like you are withering? How can the group pray for you?