



A MAN WHO KNOWS GOD'S HEART

A study guide based on Jonah 4

Created by Trish Morris

Jonah knew that God was gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He knew God's heart. The question was whether he could accept that heart when God showed mercy to his enemies.

Read Jonah 4 before beginning the study.

1 Who is God to you?

Before looking up any other passages, begin with your own understanding. There is no answer to copy here. Write what you honestly believe about God.

Who is God to you?

How would you describe His character?

What experiences have most shaped the way you see Him?

2 What does Scripture show us about God?

Look up each passage. Do not try to summarize the whole passage. Write what it reveals to you about who God is.

Exodus 34:5–7

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

Deuteronomy 32:3–4

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

Psalm 103:8–14

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

Psalm 145:8–9, 13–18

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

Isaiah 40:28–31

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

2 What does Scripture show us about God? (continued)

Micah 7:18–19

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

John 3:16–17

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

Romans 5:6–8

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

2 Peter 3:8–9

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

1 John 1:5–9

What do you see in this passage about who God is?

After reading these passages, is there anything you would add to or change about your first description of God?

3 Jonah knew God's heart

Read Jonah 4:1–4 and Exodus 34:5–7. Jonah's description of God echoes the words God used to reveal His own character to Moses.

What does Jonah know about God?

How had Jonah already experienced these parts of God's character in his own life?

Why did knowing God's heart make Jonah reluctant to go to Nineveh?

4 Mercy for an enemy

Think of someone whose actions have caused you pain or anger. What is difficult about knowing that God also loves and cares for that person?

What do you fear God's mercy toward that person might mean about your pain or what happened to you?

5 The plant, the people, and the cattle

Read Jonah 4:5–11. Notice what Jonah cares about, what God provides, and what God removes.

Why was Jonah so happy about the plant?

What effort had Jonah put into creating, growing, or sustaining it?

What contrast does God make between Jonah's concern for the plant and His concern for Nineveh?

Jonah saw Nineveh as an enemy. What did God see when He looked at the city?

Why do you think God ended by mentioning the cattle?

6 Final reflection

God asked Jonah this question twice. The book ends without giving us Jonah's answer.

Do you have the right to be angry?