

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

2021.2.11&14



Questions for Community Group Discussion

- 1 In Jonah 1:2, God explicitly told Jonah His will for him. What are the pros and cons of such clarity?
- 2 Would you like to know, on any given day, **exactly** what God requires **of you**? Why or why not?
- 3 Look up each of the following verses and summarize what they say is God's will for you:
1 Thessalonians 4:3 _____
1 Thessalonians 5:18 _____
1 Peter 2:15 _____
Luke 9:23 _____
Micah 6:8 _____
- 4 According to the following verses, **how** do we **arrive at** knowing God's will?
John 7:17 _____
Psalm 119:105 _____
- 5 God allowed the Ninevites to be wicked for quite some time before he held them accountable for their sin. Read 2 Peter 3:3-12. **Why** doesn't God stop all wicked scoffing (v. 3-7) immediately (see v. 8)?
- 6 Read Jonah 1:8-11, 13-14. How have you been the recipient of unusual kindness from non-believers?
- 7 How can we resolve the gap between correct theology (v. 9) and a lack of neighbor-love (v. 10)?
- 8 Review the **three purposes** behind God's miraculous treatment of Jonah (see **Sermon Summary**). Which of those **purposes** have you experienced? Tell us more about it.

Need help figuring out God's will?
To connect with a discipler, e-mail:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

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 - When the Lord calls you to do something, don't fear the consequences.
 - When you disobey and try to run away, expect God to come after you.

1 Possible responses include:

Pros:

- No ambiguity; you know exactly what God expects. No more, no less.
- You could prepare for the day's assignments.
- You could avoid unpleasant tasks that you knew weren't on God's list for you.

Cons:

- You could dread certain days, knowing what tasks await you.
- You might "force" issues—getting them over with in a forced, mercenary manner.
- You could avoid acts of kindness, knowing that God didn't require them of you.

2 This is a fun, "softball" question—just an opportunity to gain insight into how group members think.

3 1 Thessalonians 4:3 = "abstain from sexual immorality"

1 Thessalonians 5:18 = "in everything give thanks"

1 Peter 2:15 = "do right by submitting even to ignorant, foolish leaders" (see v. 13)"

Luke 9:23 = "deny yourself, and take up your cross daily and follow Jesus"

Micah 6:8 = "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God"

4 John 7:17 = "commit to doing God's will before you know what it is"

Psalms 119:105 = "allow God's Word to be the lamp you walk by"

5 **Before** your group meets, become familiar with the flow of the argument in 2 Peter 3. Here it is...

- v. 3-4 Scoffers ridicule God that, although he's **promised** to return, nothing's happened yet
- v. 5-7 Peter says that scoffers haven't noticed that God has quite a track record of fulfilling promises:
 - ⇒ v. 5 By God's **word** he made the heavens and the earth
 - ⇒ v. 6 God **said** he'd flood the world, and that's just what he did
 - ⇒ v. 7 By God's **word** he's currently preserving the heavens and earth for future judgment
- v. 8-9 God's time-table is not our time-table; he is delaying the fulfillment of his promise to return in judgment so as to give some of these scoffers more time to repent and be saved! (According to God's time-table, it's only been about three days since he promised to return!)
- v. 10-12 God **will** come back in judgment, but until then, believers should use this time to live godly lives and evangelizing our lost (scoffing) neighbors—thus speeding up God's return!

6 These accounts show the kindness that pagan sailors showed to God's disobedient prophet. God's "common grace" (ie, the grace that he sheds on all mankind, which enables us to live civilly) was evident in their desire to spare Jonah's life, even though he brought this difficulty on them.

7 Jonah had his theology right—but that didn't make him a godly man. How can we make sure that we don't confuse Bible knowledge for genuine godliness?

8 Explore with your group what God's **discipline** might look like in our lives, how we can recognize times when God has **preserved** us from danger or death, and how skills we've developed can actually turn out to be **preparation** for ministry.

9 Explore with your group what attitudes/reactions they may have to these two points of Application.

MEN! THE WAIT IS OVER!



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