

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BLIND SPOTS

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

If left unchecked, bitterness can take root and take over our lives. Recognizing how God has given us a second chance can help us let go of all our hurt and resentment.

On some level we all struggle with a “those people” mentality. How do you see this kind of mindset manifest itself in today’s culture? How do you see it in your own heart? Who are “those people” that you struggle with bitterness toward?

When called to preach to the Assyrians in Nineveh, Jonah ran the opposite way. Given the Assyrians’ violence and cruelty, how do you think Jonah justified his disobedience? What are some excuses we use to justify our own bitterness? Why is this so dangerous?

Jonah’s bitterness towards Nineveh’s disobedience caused him to be disobedient. In what ways can our bitterness lead us into sin and disobedience? What does Hebrews 12:15 say about the consequences of our bitterness? How have you seen these effects in your own life?

Read Jonah 2:1-10. Did Jonah see his time in the big fish as a punishment or as an act of deliverance? Identify all the phrases he uses in this song that speak of God’s mercy and grace. How have we experienced these same things in Christ?

How did God give Jonah a second chance? Why, then, do you think Jonah had such a hard time offering the people of Nineveh a second chance? Why are we so much more willing to accept grace than to offer it to others? How do we combat this tendency?

Read Jonah 4:1-3. How does this passage explain Jonah’s earlier desire to run away from God’s call? How can grace challenge (and sometimes even frustrate) us? In what ways does God’s grace motivate us to let go of our bitterness? How can remembering the ways you’ve been forgiven by God help you to let go of your bitterness and self-righteousness?