

SIX: What does God's love look like?

We serve a sovereign God who controls every detail of the universe. He is also a God who hears our cries and is willing to forgive. Because of this, we know that even His harsh words are intended for our good. No matter how much we've messed up, there is a God who gives us a hard word and a tender heart.

READ: Jonah 3:6-10

1) We are all sinners. That means that our relationships are broken and hurt by sin. Overlooking that damage is not loving. How does speaking difficult truth expose sin and strengthen relationships?

2) God has lovingly pronounced judgment on us because of our sin. (See Romans 6:23) Do you believe your personal sin should be judged? How does your sin damage your relationship with God?

3) God's judgment is intended to bring us to repentance. What does this teach you about his character? What does this tell you about his love for you?

"If you announce judgment, it's not because you intend to judge; it is because you intend to redeem."

4) It should amaze us that God hears and responds to our prayers. How should your prayer life change in light of this truth? Be specific.

5) God gave Jonah a message of judgment intended to save a great city. God has given you the message of Jesus Christ intended to save the world. How does the story of Jonah embolden your evangelism? Pray for those around you who do not know the salvation of Jesus Christ. God hears you.

“God has the beautiful ability to take the worst things ever and turn them into the best things ever.”

STREET LEVEL TRUTH: God accomplishes his unshakable, unstoppable plan through the valid choices of people like you and me. He is awesome in power and tender in heart. He hears your prayers and responds to your cries.

PRAYER: Lord, I am amazed that you hear my prayers and respond to me with grace. When I hear your hard words, may I remember behind those words is a tender-hearted redeemer. May I understand that I am being loved. Give me the strength to run to you in those moments. In Jesus' name, amen.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 86:5

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.