



# **4Ws** GOD'S COMPASSION IS MISSION

JULY 5, 2026

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## **WORSHIP**

Suggested worship songs: King Jesus, Every Praise, Here I Am to Worship, Draw Me Close/I Am, Thine O Lord, What a Mighty God We Serve, My God Can Do Anything

## **WELCOME**

What Bible verses and passages about Jesus' compassion for people have you read and meditated on lately?

## **WORD**

Jonah 4:2 (read the entire book of Jonah)

... I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

We begin a new series for Missions Month: **Live Your Purpose, Go Beyond.** Our first message is **God's Compassion Is Mission.**

The word **mission** comes from the Latin *missio*, meaning **"to send."** To be on mission is to be sent to accomplish a purpose. Human missions seek to improve life on earth, but God's mission transforms lives for eternity.

This is the heart of the Great Commission. As a church, we embrace Matthew 28:19–20 as our primary mission—to **make disciples.** Discipleship includes evangelism, which means intentionally going out of our way to meet people and lead them to Jesus. Human missions may change history, but God's mission changes eternity.

The church does not create its own mission; it exists to fulfill God's mission. When we fail to make disciples, it often reveals that we lack God's compassion. Compassion is more than feeling sympathy. The Greek word conveys a deep love that moves a person to action. God's compassion never remains passive—it always acts. The book of Jonah helps us understand what God's compassion looks like.

### **GOD'S COMPASSION IS PROACTIVE**

The story begins with **the word of the LORD** (Jonah 1:1–2). God took the initiative. The book is ultimately not about Jonah, the great fish, or even Nineveh—it is about God at work.

Nineveh was an exceedingly wicked city, and judgment was coming upon it. The prophet Nahum later described its violence and corruption. Yet before bringing judgment, God chose to extend mercy by sending His prophet with a warning.

God's method has always been to send ordinary people on extraordinary missions. His compassion moves Him to pursue those who are far from Him. Romans 5:8 reminds us that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." No one forced God to save us. He was under no obligation to rescue humanity, yet He willingly did so because of His love.

Likewise, God now sends us to tell others about His salvation. We are more than church attendees sitting in pews—we are workers sent into His harvest. Jonah, however, responded differently. Instead of obeying God's command, he fled from the presence of the LORD (Jonah 1:3). Knowing exactly what God wanted him to do, he boarded a ship going in the opposite direction—from Nineveh toward Tarshish. He was running not simply from a destination, but from God's mission.

### **GOD'S COMPASSION PURSUES**

God's compassion is not only proactive—it is persistent. Because Jonah refused to obey, God appointed a great storm that threatened to destroy the ship (Jonah 1:4). While experienced sailors panicked and fought for their lives, Jonah slept soundly below deck (v. 5). His conscience seemed unaffected.

Many believers can become spiritually like Jonah—comfortable, asleep, and unconcerned about God's mission. Yet our disobedience never affects only ourselves; it impacts the people around us.

When the sailors cast lots to determine who was responsible for the disaster, the lot fell on Jonah (vv. 7–8). After questioning him, they discovered that he was fleeing from the LORD. Their stunned response was, "How could you do this?" (v. 10).

Jonah eventually admitted that he was the cause of the storm and instructed them to throw him into the sea. Reluctantly, the sailors prayed for God's mercy before doing so. The moment Jonah entered the water, the sea became calm (vv. 15–16). In response, the sailors feared the LORD, offered sacrifices, and worshiped Him. Even Jonah's failure became an opportunity for others to encounter God.

Then God appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jesus Himself affirmed this event, comparing Jonah's three days in the fish to His own death and resurrection (Matthew 12:40). Inside the fish, Jonah finally prayed (Jonah 2). God used difficult circumstances to address his heart. After three days, the fish released Jonah onto dry land—exactly where God wanted him to be—in Nineveh.

### **GOD'S COMPASSION TRANSFORMS**

God graciously gave Jonah a second opportunity. Once again He commanded Jonah to proclaim His message to Nineveh, and this time Jonah obeyed (Jonah 3:1–3).

As Jonah preached, something remarkable happened. The people of Nineveh believed God, repented of their sins, and turned from their wicked ways (vv. 4–5). Seeing their genuine repentance, God withheld the judgment He had announced (v. 10). Our responsibility is simply to proclaim God's Word. Only God can change human hearts. What a privilege it is to be used by Him.

Surprisingly, chapter 4 reveals that Jonah was angry about Nineveh's repentance. Instead of rejoicing over God's mercy, he resented it. He viewed the Assyrians as enemies who deserved judgment, not compassion. In fact, Jonah became so bitter that he asked God to take his life (vv. 3–4).

The book of Jonah is therefore not only about Nineveh's transformation—it is also about God's desire to transform Jonah's heart. Although Jonah eventually obeyed outwardly, he still lacked God's compassion inwardly.

The book ends with God asking Jonah a penetrating question: **"Should I not have compassion on Nineveh?"** (Jonah 4:11). That same question challenges every believer today.

Jesus later declared that **"something greater than Jonah is here"** (Matthew 12:41)—referring to Himself. We see the contrast between Jesus and Jonah:

JONAH	JESUS
Sent by God	Sent by God
Disobeyed	Obedied
Lacked compassion	Full of compassion
In the belly of the fish three days and three night	In the tomb three days and three nights
Came out of the fish	Rose from the tomb
No heart for sinners	Died for sinners to be saved

When we remember that people are separated from God without Christ, His compassion should move us. As Paul wrote, "the love of Christ controls us" (2 Corinthians 5:14–15). His love compels us to stop living only for ourselves and to faithfully bring the message of the gospel to those who desperately need His forgiveness.

May we submit ourselves to Jesus Christ, embrace His heart of compassion, and faithfully carry out the mission He has entrusted to us.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. How does God take the initiative to show compassion to Jonah, Nineveh, and to us today?
2. Have you ever resisted or run from God's call? How did God pursue you and draw you back to Him?
3. How should experiencing God's compassion transform the way you respond to His mission today?

# WORKS

## PRAY CARE SHARE

### IN ACTION

Pray for the Lord to send His witnesses to people whose lives are in “danger” from an eternity without Christ. Step out in faith and godly courage to use your God-given influence to share the gospel with them!

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God’s Word.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria) --- many have been beheaded and murdered; earnestly seek God’s intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God’s word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Continue to pray for Israel’s war with terrorists to end according to God’s purpose and for His glory. For Jewish people worldwide who are experiencing a surge of antisemitism. May this lead them to the Messiah, Jesus as they turn to God for help and comfort.
- For nations in turmoil (e.g., Ukraine, Middle Eastern countries, etc.) to experience true freedom in Christ and become centers for massive spiritual

revivals in their regions. For new Iranian leadership to rise up that will be for the people of Iran, will promote freedom of worship that the Iranian believers will be able to reach out to the rest of their countrymen and the people of the Middle East.

- For relief goods, financial assistance, God’s comfort, healing and hope for the people in SOCSARGEN devastated by the recent 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck the island.
- Pray for the people of Venezuela devastated by two strong 7+ magnitude back-to-back earthquakes. Pray for the rescue of those trapped under collapsed buildings; for strength and protection for the rescue workers; for relief goods and medical services for thousands of affected families. For the church to be the powerful hands of hope and healing that will lead people to Jesus.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, deacons, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

## MEMORY VERSE

### Jonah 4:2

2 He prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.”