

THE BIG STORY

"COMPASSION GOES INTERNATIONAL"

THE BOOK OF JONAH

1. Have you ever returned home after a day out, looked in a mirror, and discovered something about your appearance that you were blind to (i.e. a piece of spinach in your tooth, smudged makeup, something in your nose)?

On a more serious note, have you ever discovered something about your lifestyle that you had previously been blind to?

2. Spend a few minutes discussing the story of Jonah. Then, read chapter four together.

You can tell a lot about someone by the things that make them angry or have the ability to tap into their emotions. Jonah's anger about the plant shows how concerned he is about his own personal comfort. His indifference over the lives of the Ninevites shows his extreme lack of compassion.

We can be numb to the needs of people around us and completely blind to it.

Spend a few minutes recalling some things that have recently stirred you emotionally. What does this reveal about yourself? Feel free to share your thoughts (there's no right answer).

3. Jonah is numb to the needs of the Ninevites, but he is blind to it. He is completely unaware of his lack of compassion. Is it possible that there are areas of our lives that need some reevaluating? Are there things in our lives that should have the ability to stir us emotionally but don't?
4. What do you think has the ability to tap in God's emotions? (For those of you who are familiar with the Bible, think of times that Jesus reacted emotionally [frustration, compassion, etc.]). How does this compare to the things that we react emotionally to?
5. The popular worship song, *Hosanna*, asks God to "break (our) hearts for what breaks (His)." How can we grow in this way—in caring more about what God cares about and less about selfish things?
6. Are there people in your life that feel comfortable enough to point out your blind spots?