

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 20, 2026 (Pentecost 17)

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Discussion Starters

1. Why is Jonah angry and depressed now? Isn't the repentance of a nation something to be desired?
2. What is the history between the Jews and the Assyrians? Does Jonah have a right to feel as he does?
3. What three things does God provide for Jonah in this reading? Why? What do these three things reveal about God? About Jonah?
4. What was Jonah's biggest spiritual problem?
5. What does this story tell you about God's grace and mercy?
6. When have you attempted to limit God's expressions of mercy or taken delight in the misfortunes of others?

Philippians 1:21-30

Discussion Starters

1. What is Paul's overriding attitude toward his uncertain future (see verse 21)? What does he mean by that?
2. How would you define "conduct worthy of the Gospel?" Why is that so important to Paul?
3. Where is Paul when this passage was written? How does that impact your understanding of what he writes here?
4. Fill in the blank for your personal situation: For me to live is _____. How do you calendar and checkbook support or refute your answer?
5. How might our society be different if all Christians took verse 27 to heart? What change(s) might you be called on to make?
6. How has your faith impacted your attitude toward living and dying?

Matthew 20:1-16

Discussion Starters

1. What does this parable teach you about God and His Kingdom?
2. Why are identical wages given to both the early workers and the later ones? Is that fair? Is the landowner just or unjust?
3. Who is the landowner? Who are the early workers? Who are the later workers?
4. What is meant by the contrast between first and last in verse 16?
5. What is meant by the phrase at the end of verse 16: Many are called, but few are chosen?
6. How do you feel about "death bed converts" receiving the same benefit of salvation as someone who lives as a Christian for many years?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?