



Jonah under the plant

AT A GLANCE



Bible

Jonah 4



Topic

When God is more merciful than I am



Takeaway

Not begrudging others grace



8 minutes



Object: a withered leaf



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic “When God is more merciful than I am”. Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Pass a withered leaf around. Ask: What annoys you more – losing something small, or someone being given something they “do not deserve”?

2 min

Bible text

Read Jonah 4. Nineveh turns back, God spares the city. Jonah is furious. He sits down under a plant that grows quickly and withers again – and is more upset about the plant than about the people.

3 min

Thought

The ending is surprising: the prophet is angry that God is gracious. Do you know that feeling? We want justice for others and grace for ourselves. God’s last question to Jonah is left open – and it is addressed to us.

2 min

Conversation

Who do you find it hard to see receiving God’s grace?



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Prayer to read aloud

God, you are gracious, merciful and full of love. Make my heart wide enough not to begrudge others your grace. Amen.



To think further

- Why does the book of Jonah end with a question?



For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.
- Encourage them to say the prayer themselves – the written prayer gives confidence.



Section: Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.