

## ***In the Car***

*(Questions to discuss in the car, based on this week's message)*

- When's the last time things didn't go the way you wanted them to?
- What was your number one take-a-way from today's message?

## ***In Between Bites***

*(Family devotion, based on the message, designed for use around a meal)*

### **Read Matthew 6:43-48**

From a human perspective Jonah was probably right. If Nineveh had been wiped out in his day, Assyria wouldn't have conquered and taken the northern kingdom of Israel into exile in 722 BC. She was a military enemy that God had the opportunity to destroy before she became too dangerous. Nineveh's repentance didn't turn her into a friend of Israel and Judah; she didn't become a beacon for truth and righteousness. Those things may be true, but God still wanted to pour out His compassion on Nineveh, and He wanted to use Jonah in the process. God's ways are so much higher than our ways.

And from a human perspective, it probably makes no sense for you to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." But a disciple is one who prays to God, "Your will be done" in me and through me.

- Do you ever struggle to understand God's plans?
- How can we be perfect?

# **TAKE IT HOME**

Helps for putting today's message into practice throughout the week

## ***Today's Message*** **"JONAH: Wrestling with God"**

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Based on Jonah 4:1-11



**Prince of Peace**  
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# ***Digging Deeper***

*(Daily Bible readings and reflections based on the message)*

## **Monday: Read Jonah 4:1-2**

Why was Jonah so angry that God spared Nineveh?

## **Tuesday: Read Jonah 4:3-4**

How quickly Jonah had forgotten God's mercy for him when he was inside the fish. Jonah was happy when God saved him, but was angry when Nineveh was saved.

## **Wednesday: Read Jonah 4:5-9**

If Jonah cared so much about a short-lived plant in which he invested nothing- certainly God had every right to care about a city full of people in which he invested so much.

## **Thursday: Read Jonah 4:10**

God does for Jonah what he does for every one of us. God invites Jonah to look at the world through HIS eyes, in light of HIS character, with HIS purposes in mind.

## **Friday: Read Exodus 34:6**

Notice that God did not give Moses a vision of his power and majesty, but of his love. God's glory is revealed in his mercy, compassion, forgiveness, grace, faithfulness, and justice.

## **Saturday: Read 1 Kings 19:4**

Jonah's cries sound very familiar to another prophet's cries- Elijah. Both prophets struggle with God's will. Is your will at odds with God's will? The only way to have peace and contentment in this life is to align yourself with God's will.

# ***POP Kids Parent Cue***

*(Family faith discussion based on this week's POP Kids Lesson)*

**Self-Control: Choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do.**

**Memory Verse:** "Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

James 1:19 NLT

**Bible Story:** Too Much of a Good Thing – Proverbs 25:16

**Bottom Line:** Know when to stop.

## **Meal Time**

- Ask a kid: How can you know when to stop?
- Ask a parent: Why does God want us to have self-control even with the "good things" in life?

## **Parent Time**

Do you still have your kid's baby book? Remember recording the date of every sweet milestone? Grabbing the video camera to capture the first time they rolled, smiled, or walked?

Do you still celebrate your child's milestones with the same enthusiasm? I have to admit, I tend to approach the older child milestones with a tiny bit of sadness. How is he already old enough to be losing teeth? Is she really grown-up enough for an overnight camp? Weren't they just babies?

While we may be sad to recognize that our babies are growing up, it helps to imagine the adults they are becoming. We need to celebrate each milestone, appreciating their new independence and welcoming their maturity. After all, we're not really raising kids, we're raising adults.

To hear more about how you can celebrate your kid's growth and imagine the end, check out this month's Parent Link Live podcast on [www.OrangeParents.org](http://www.OrangeParents.org). And for more mealtime questions, and great activities that you and your child can do at other times of your week, check out [www.Studio252.tv](http://www.Studio252.tv) and the Parent Cue app for your smartphone.