

Theme & Passage(s)	Theme: God's extravagant outrageous kindness, care, mercy, compassion to people (whole of creation) Passages: Jonah 4
Welcome	<p>Note: These are very hard hitting issues for a welcome. None-the-less they are issues being grappled with in the media and wider society so it is good that we discuss how we might respond in conversation with colleagues/friends.</p> <p>In light of our experience of the extravagant outrageous kindness, care, mercy of God how do we think with a Christian worldview about these following issues? What are some of the issues we face in discussing them? What do we have to say about evil as Christian's?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should happen to the bodies of Ian Brady & the Manchester bomber Salman Abedi? (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/18/bradys-body-released-police-guard-ahead-cremation/) • What is our attitude towards the perpetrators of the Rochdale child abuse? (as portrayed in the BBC drama 'Three girls' shown last week? http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08rgd5n
Worship	<p>Psalms and songs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geoff bullock The Mercy of God - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZXI2lw502A 2. Casting Crowns - Who am I? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBcqria2wmg 3. Good, good Father - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqybalesbuA <p>Worship Ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poem by Jim Pemberton <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Mercy of God... <p>The goodness of God is what makes one whole. Mercy is HIS favor to nourish the soul. May his mercy bring humility in our conduct and speech. Being gentle will affect the people we reach. In this harsh, rude and unforgiving world, God's mercy in your life will shine like gold. May our life be a reflection of this wonderful gift, For God's presence in our life will give us a lift! Jesus will lift you up, and others will say, "Christ' love and mercy has blessed us today!"</p>

By Jim Pemberton

2. Read & reflection on the following Taken from the sermon 'The justice of God in the damnation of sinners' by Jonathan Edwards. Encourage people to respond in Praise & thanksgiving.

"Christian, consider the freeness and wonderfulness of the grace of God towards yourself. You had such a wicked heart, you lived such a wicked life, and it would have been most just with God to have cast you off forever. But he has had mercy upon you; he has made his glorious grace appear in your eternal salvation.

You had no love to God; but yet he has exercised unspeakable love to you.

You have despised God, and set light by him; but so great a value has God's grace set on you and your happiness, that you have been redeemed at the price of the blood of his own Son.

You chose to be with Satan in his service; but yet God has made you a joint heir with Christ of his glory.

You were ungrateful for past mercies; yet God not only continued those mercies, but bestowed unspeakably greater mercies upon you.

You refused to hear when God called; yet God heard you when you called.

You abused the infiniteness of God's mercy to encourage yourself in sin against him; yet God has manifested the infiniteness of that mercy, in the exercises of it towards you.

You have rejected Christ, and set him at nothing; and yet he is become your Savior.

You have neglected your own salvation; but God has not neglected it.

You would have destroyed yourself; but yet in God has been your help.

God has magnified his free grace towards you, and not to others; because he has chosen you, and it has pleased him to set his love upon you.

Christian, you shall never open your mouth in boasting; but lie the lower before God for his mercy to you. You have abundant reasons to open your mouth in God's praises, that they may be continually in your mouth, both here and to all eternity, for his rich, unspeakable, and sovereign mercy to you, whereby he, and he alone, has made you to differ from others".

<p>Word/ Read & Reflect</p>	<p>Begin in silence, welcoming the Holy Spirit to guide you. If you haven't already read the passage read it now and then be silent. Read again. Be silent once more, attentive to the Spirit.</p> <p>Share out of this experience...</p> <p>If time, consider some of the following questions...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did Jonah feel about Nineveh being saved? How do we feel about Jonah?! How might you describe Jonah? 2. Jonah thought only some people were worthy to be saved. Do we see things the same way as Jonah does sometimes? 3. What is God trying to teach Jonah? Are they lessons that we need to learn again today? How do we go about learning these lessons? 4. Jonah is angry about the way God is acting. What kinds of things make us angry with God? Why? 5. How is God fair in His judgments? Can we give examples of how God is fair in his judgements from both the scriptures and in our own experience?
<p>Working it out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the coming week try to find ways in which you've 'Tasted and seen that the Lord is good recently'. ● Are there people you know who you've been graceless towards. Do you need to apologise to them and seek forgiveness and reconciliation? ● Are you angry with God? Seek out those whom you trust who might be able to help you overcome this anger through prayer.
<p>Extra</p>	<p>Remember that 'One Weekend' is coming up. Have you thought about who you might invite along to one of the events? Walk Saturday morning; Saturday evening whole church family entertainment; Sunday morning worship, teaching & Ministry; Sunday evening prayer ministry and worship.</p>