

“Do You See Yourself?”

STBC’s Gather & Grow Bible Study / March 25, 2026 / Dr. Chris Williamson

Opening Thoughts: One of the hardest things to see in life is to see yourself. We all have our own struggles, issues, blind spots, and personality flaws that we don’t see. Why is it so difficult for us at times to see who we really are and what we are really like?

Our capacity for growth is directly linked to how much truth we can face about ourselves without running away, making excuses, or being in denial.

To see ourselves, we will need at least five things:

1. A good friend
2. A good therapist
3. A good God
4. A good word
5. A good question

One way God shows us ourselves is by asking us questions. God never asks questions to gain information because He already knows everything. When God asks questions, He wants us to be the ones who gain information. He wants us to see where we are, who we are, and why we keep doing what we’re doing.

Remember, God asked **Adam** two questions. (Where are you? Who told you that you were naked?) God asked **Cain** three questions. (Why are you angry? Where is Abel your brother? What have you done?) God asked **Hagar** two questions. (Where have you come from and where are you going?) God asked **Moses** a question. (What is that in your hand?) God asked **Elijah** the same question two times. (What are you doing here, Elijah?) God asked **Job** too many questions to list here. (Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?)

And don’t forget, Jesus asked **Judas** two questions. (Friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?)

God asked Jonah several questions in chapter 4:

- *“Is it right for you to be angry?” (4:4)*
- *“Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” (4:9)*
- *“Should I not pity Ninevah...?” (4:11)*

If Jonah would have seen himself from God’s questions, what would he have seen?

Break Out ??: Give examples of questions God asks Christians for us to see ourselves.

Let's exegete Jonah 4:5 – 11 together.

⁵So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. ⁷But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. ⁸And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

¹⁰But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"

Closing Thoughts: God was graciously attempting to teach Jonah a lesson by asking questions so that he could see his own shortcomings. Sadly, Jonah was further away from God than the Ninevites. The Ninevites got the message from God and repented. The book of Jonah ends without us knowing if Jonah ever repented. But the question to the modern-day reader is: Will we repent after God asks us some soul-searching questions?

Will we see ourselves and repent, or will we respond in silent defiance like Jonah?