



Chapter & verse – Peter Knowles (page 19)

Read Jonah 4, followed by Peter Knowles' article.

1. 'Chapter & verse' opens with a description of a situation where politicians are 'badly caught out'. What recent examples can you think of – from media coverage, local news or your own lives – that are similar?
2. After reading this chapter, what is your impression of Jonah?
3. God asks Jonah, in verse four of this Bible chapter: 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Are there situations where it can be right for one to be angry?
4. In verses six to eight, Jonah continues what Peter calls 'this massive losing streak'. What do these verses add to the story's message?
5. Peter's fifth paragraph described Jonah as 'an allegorical – as well as a comic – figure' suggesting that 'he stands for us.' Do you agree? Are there other interpretations of Jonah?
6. How are you left at the abrupt ending of this biblical book? Were you surprised that it ends with God's concern for animals?
7. Peter's article ends with some suggestions as to what we can learn from Jonah. Are there other lessons?
8. Can you think of ways for society to 'stay watchful, observe the signals and ... celebrate success', as Peter suggests?

For further reflection: '... let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.' James 1:19-20

Prayer: Father of all, of our friends and our enemies, of our species and the rest of the world, help us to see as you see and care as you care. Help us to hear your call. Give us the words and the deeds to be your messengers. Amen