

Jonah – Jonah 1:17-2:10

“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”

Jonah is hurled into the sea and God in His provision sends a great fish to swallow up Jonah. This is a picture we see all throughout Scripture of judgment which brings salvation. We see the mercy of God providing rescue for Jonah. Jonah goes down into the belly of the fish and in his prayer we see the depths to which he goes. There is still no real repentance from Jonah but for the first time we see Jonah cry out to the Lord. Let's dig in and work through some questions.

Discussion Questions* – *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. Read the text out loud again. Walk through the text and share an observation, a question, and an application for this text.
2. In chapter 1 we see this continual downward spiral related to Jonah's sin and rebellion. We see the pagan mariners “crying out to his god.” Jonah is asleep in the belly of the ship. For the first time we see Jonah “cry out” and pray to the Lord of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. What can we learn about God through Jonah's prayer? What characteristics do we see revealed about God from this experience of Jonah being swallowed by a fish? What can we learn about ourselves from Jonah's prayer and experience in the fish?
3. Commentators have differing views on Jonah's prayer in this text. There is clearly a time of thanksgiving and remembering the Lord in the holy temple. However, there is still no repentance and some even see this prayer as almost a self-centered prayer. In the midst of the deep need in the belly of the fish some see it as Jonah is constantly saying “I, me, or my.” For some they read it as if Jonah is taking credit for all that God is doing. There's room for differences of interpretation here. How should our prayers reflect the sovereignty and transcendency of God? How should our prayers reflect God's immanence and closeness to us? Think about how you pray, where is your focus? Where should it be?
4. One of the greatest points is made in verse 9 where we read that, “Salvation belongs to the Lord.” How do we tend to lose sight of God's work in salvation and base our salvation on performance? Jonah was considered a national hero for his prophecies that would expand the borders and protect Israel from the

Assyrians. God called Jonah to those he could not stand, the Ninevites, and he rebelled against God. How might you and I justify our sinful rebellion of seeing ourselves more worthy of salvation than others? What can we learn from Jonah about not being obedient to our own call to go and make disciple?