

## Study Guide

### Jonah 2

Read Jonah 1:17

1. If the story of Jonah is not about a bizarre fish incident then what is it really about?
2. Describe a time when God's provision or God's mercy seemed unusual.

Read Jonah 2:1-2

3. How does it sit with you knowing that God allowed Jonah to go through a near death experience?
4. In real world terms what does it look like for God answer our cries?

Read Jonah 2:3

5. Describe a time when God "brought you to the depths for his purposes."
6. Do we need to understand what those purposes are? Discuss what you mean.

Read Jonah 2:4-6a

7. How does hardship bring our need for God into focus?
8. Describe a time when God's provision or God's mercy seemed uncomfortable.
9. Do you wrestle with the assumption that if we give our lives to Jesus he will provide smooth passage to our chosen destination with comfort? Explain.

Read Jonah 2:6b-7

10. What are some other gospel passages that reflect this truth?

Read Jonah 2:8-10

#### **PRAY**

- Take time to offer grateful praise to God.
- In you time of prayer reflect on the meaning of Paul's words to the church in Rome:  
*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1)*
- Use your prayer as an opportunity to renew your "vows" to God as his servant.

## Message Slides

### Jonah 2

SLIDE

#### Themes from Jonah 2

1. His reach extends to the ends of the earth.
2. God is a pursuer and he stays with his runaway.
3. God's mercy is perplexing but always good.

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#### Jonah 1:17

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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#### Jonah 2:1-2

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.  
He said:

"In my distress **I called** to the Lord,  
and he answered me.  
From deep in the realm of the dead **I called** for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

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#### Jonah 2:3

<sup>3</sup>**You** hurled me into the depths,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all **your** waves and breakers  
swept over me.

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#### Jonah 2:4-6

I said, 'I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.  
To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever."

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**Jonah 2:6-7**

**But you, Lord my God,  
brought my life up from the pit.**

When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, Lord,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple."

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**Acts 5:41**

"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."

SLIDE

**Jonah 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>"Those who cling to worthless idols  
turn away from God's love for them.  
<sup>9</sup>But I, with shouts of grateful praise,  
will sacrifice to you.  
What I have vowed I will make good.  
I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.' "

<sup>10</sup>And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

SLIDE

**Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

- How is God's reach extending into your life?
- How is God pursuing you?
- Are you still running?

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**The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me...**

**To the roots of the mountains I sank down"**

- God, this is my prayer from the deep. . .
- I remember you, oh Lord...
- You bring me into the depths for Your purposes.

SLIDE

**But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit.**

- God, help me to believe this...
- God, you are closest at my most desperate
- I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'