

WEEK 2 | JONAH 2 | RUNNING TO GOD

Please read Jonah 2 and answer the following questions.

How does verse 1 set the stage for Jonah's prayer?

This chapter is set in poetic form. Generally speaking, how do you much do you like/dislike poetry?

- One of the primary characteristics of English poetry is balance of sound. The author chooses words that sound similar at the end of sentences (i.e. they rhyme).
- Hebrew poetry also uses balance as a primary method. However, it balances thought rather than sound. As you read these verses, look for the balance of ideas and thought rather than sound.
- Sometimes the lines repeat the thought (in different words) of the previous line. Other times they extend or contrast the thought.
- As you read, think of the lines as more of a verbal painting that portray general thoughts rather than specific ideas.
- Reread Chapter 2. How does your impression of Jonah's prayer change?

What does verse 8 tell us about Jonah's view of Nineveh's religious situation?

Jesus refers to Jonah in Matthew 12:13-42. What does the "sign of Jonah" refer to from Jesus's perspective? Does Jesus regard the account of Jonah as historical fact or myth/fable?

What physical changes would have happened to Jonah being in the stomach of the fish?

Verse 10 tells us that the fish vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. What does this image tell us about God's view of Jonah's actions? How does Revelation 3:16 help understand this image?

How did God answer Jonah's prayer? What parallels do you see between verses 1 and 10?

Exactly how did God answer Jonah's prayer? Did Jonah view being swallowed by the fish as a blessing (being saved from drowning in the sea!) or a punishment for running away from God? How does seeing the actions of the fish as an answer to prayer change your view of Jonah's circumstances?

God used the storm and fish to get Jonah's attention. What extreme actions has God used to get your attention in your past?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God went to great lengths to get Jonah's attention! Describe a time in your personal walk with the Lord that He used something "big" or unusual (like a great fish) to get your attention.

Notice that Jonah's prayer is not actually about being saved *from* the fish (he never requests this) but being saved *by* the fish. What does this teach us about how to view our present circumstances? Have you ever been disappointed with God about *how* He chose to answer a prayer?

What does it mean that "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (v. 9)?

This is a fairly dramatic example of someone getting a second chance. Discuss a time when God gave you a second chance. How did you feel? Can you identify with any of the emotions in Jonah's prayer?

What do we learn about obedience from the first two chapters of Jonah?