

# JONAH

SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD!  
JONAH 2

## Icebreaker

**Who has seen the original Disney version of Pinocchio? What does that story's version of the whale story have in common with the story of Jonah in 1:17-2:10? Differences?**

## Context

Last week, Jonah ended up being thrown overboard and swallowed by a "large fish" that had been sent by God. Don't get too caught up in the semantics of whether it was a "large fish" or a whale. The truth is, the author is not trying to give the kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species of the creature that swallowed Jonah. (A little biology for my science nerds out there!) The author wants the reader to know that a large sea creature swallowed Jonah.

The fact that God appointed the fish to swallow Jonah reminds us that God is sovereign over all of creation. Since God appointed the fish, it lets us know that there is a purpose to the circumstances surrounding Jonah. Today's lesson will help us know that Jonah recognizes the purpose of this experience is happening.

## Passage

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying,

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,

and he answered me;

out of the belly of Sheol I cried,

and you heard my voice.

3 For you cast me into the deep,

into the heart of the seas,

and the flood surrounded me;

all your waves and your billows

passed over me.



4     Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
yet I shall again look  
upon your holy temple.'

5     The waters closed in over me to take my life;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped about my head

6     at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the pit,  
O LORD my God.

7     When my life was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.

8     Those who pay regard to vain idols  
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

9     But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.



# Sermon Notes

The Great \_\_\_FISH\_\_\_\_\_ (Jonah 1:17, 2:10)

Why do we trust that this event truly happened?

1. This was a \_\_\_MIRACLE\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Lord spoke all creation into being and sustains it by the power of His  
\_\_\_WORD\_\_\_\_\_.  
(Psalm 33:6-9; Hebrews 1:3)
3. Jesus believed that it was a real \_\_\_HISTORICAL\_\_\_\_\_ event. (Matthew 12:39-41)

Jonah's Prayer (2:1-9)

Jonah's \_\_\_DISTRESS\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1-6a)

Jonah's \_\_\_DELIVERANCE\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6b-7)

Jonah's \_\_\_DECLARATION\_\_\_\_\_ v. 8, 9)

## Post Sermon Questions

If your group is meeting after hearing the sermon, here are some basic questions to discuss among the group.

1. What did you like about the sermon, or what was one of the more important things you heard in the sermon?
2. What was something in the sermon that caused you to have questions?
3. What did we learn about Jesus in this passage?
4. What do we learn about man (or human nature) in this passage?
5. Are there any sins we need to confess because of this passage?
6. Are there any actions we should take in light of this passage?



## Discuss

1. **Leading up to the time Jonah starts his prayer in chapter 2, what do you think Jonah experienced emotionally?**
2. **Share a time that you felt lonely and abandoned? Did you think about God? If so, what was your attitude and thoughts about/towards him?**
3. **Why does Jonah pray this prayer?**
4. **Do you think Jonah genuinely repented of his disobedience to God's call to go to Nineveh?** [Compare his words in verse 4 ..."I am driven away from your sight..." and 1:3, "So he paid the fair and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshich, away from the presence of the Lord."]
5. **What parts of Jonah's prayer are commendable and encouraging? What parts of his prayer are concerning?** [for example, in verse 4 Jonah says, "I am driven away..." but we know from 1:10 Jonah told the sailors he was "fleeing from the presence of the Lord."]
6. **Is it easier to seek God and pray when you are in the middle of a difficult time (in the belly of the fish) or after the difficult time has passed (out on dry land)? Why?**
7. **Discuss a time when you were in a "desperate situation", cried out to God, and experienced a life altering moment.**
8. Have people in the group read the following verses: Psalm 3:8; Psalm 37:9; Isaiah 43:11; Hosea 13:4; Revelation 7:10 & Revelation 19:1. **Why do you think God inspired so many different writers over so many years to write the same truth over and over again? Why is it important we remind ourselves as Christians that salvation comes only from the Lord?**

