

# The Great Rescue

May 12, 2019



**Open:** What have we learned so far about Jonah? About God? About mercy?

**Read:** Jonah 1:17-2:10

**Discuss:**

1. In Jonah's prayer, what phrases illustrate just how desperate his situation had become? What does Jonah know about why this has happened to him? (*See also Jonah 1:12.*)
2. What indications are there in Jonah's prayer that he is repentant? Does it appear that Jonah's heart has become fully aligned with God's call on his life? Why or why not?
3. Consider verses 1-2. What does God's willingness to hear and answer Jonah's prayer after his deliberate disobedience tell us about God? In moments of distress, how does prayer factor into your life? Why? When your distress is likely the result of your own sin, how does it impact if or how you pray?
4. In verse 7 Jonah says that he "remembered the Lord." Why might Jonah have ever forgotten the Lord prior to this prayer? What might he have now remembered about the Lord? When we sin, what are we forgetting about God? How are repentance and remembrance connected?
5. Given that Jonah is in the belly of a great fish when he prays this prayer, how is Jonah's faith revealed in verses 4 and 9? How can we demonstrate trust in God when we're in the midst of difficulty and don't yet see a way out? Where might you need to improve in this area?
6. In verse 8-9, what does Jonah rightly understand about salvation? How would you compare what God did for Jonah with what God has done for Christians through Jesus Christ?
7. How might you use Jonah's story to encourage a friend who felt he had sinned so greatly that he could never return to God or be used by God?

**Apply:** In what ways is Jonah's prayer an encouragement or a challenge to you?

**Pray:** Pray that God would help us see that we are always in great need of his mercy. Ask God to help us trust him when we're in the middle of difficulties and cannot see a way out.

## Jonah 1:17-2:10

<sup>1:17</sup> And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>2:1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, ‘I am driven away  
from your sight;  
yet I shall again look  
upon your holy temple.’

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

<sup>8</sup> Those who pay regard to vain idols  
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

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

Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. (ESV)