

THE REPENTING PROPHET

Jonah 1:17-2:10

INTRODUCTION

In chapter 2 of Jonah, the prophet finds himself at the brink of death inside a great fish. Regardless of how much sense it made at the time, running from God proved to be a bad idea. It is often in moments like these- moments where something "clicks" inside a person, that one can see the error of their ways. Jonah recognizes that his plight had little to do with the storm or the sailors. He was under the discipline of his Lord.

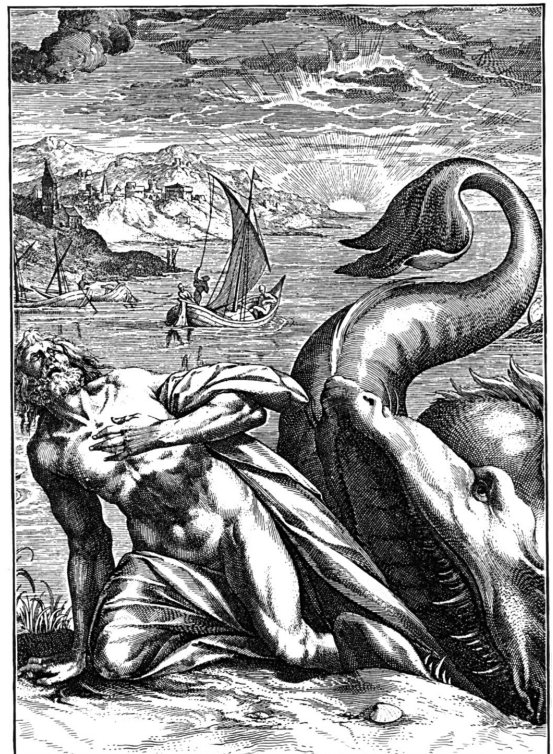
THIS WEEK:

This week from Jonah 1:17-2:10, discover how God is generous in his grace, but he is thorough in his discipline.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Jonah 1:17-2:10 and answering the following questions:

1. What events lead up to Jonah being swallowed by the great fish in Jonah 1:17?
2. How does Jonah describe his situation while inside the fish in Jonah 2:1-2?
3. What imagery and metaphors does Jonah use in his prayer in Jonah 2:3-6?
4. What happens to Jonah at the end of this passage in Jonah 2:10?



Jonah's Deliverance. Horne, Charles, and Julius Bewer. *The Bible and Its Story: The Prophets, Isaiah to Ezekiel.* Vol. 7. New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1909.

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. Compare Jonah's prayer in Jonah 2:2-9 to other biblical prayers in distress, such as Psalm 18:4-6. What similarities and differences do you notice?
6. How does Jonah 2:3-4 reflect Jonah's perception of God? Refer to Psalm 42:7 and Lamentations 3:54-56.
7. What does Jonah's vow and thanksgiving in Jonah 2:9 indicate about his understanding of God's deliverance? How does this compare to similar expressions in Psalm 50:14-15?
8. How does the narrative of Jonah's deliverance from the fish (Jonah 2:10) parallel other stories of deliverance in the Bible, such as Daniel 6:22-23 or Exodus 14:29-30?

APPLICATION *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. What consequences in life do you think most often brings people to the end of their rope?
10. How does understanding that God is both gracious and disciplinary affect the way you respond to correction or challenges in your life?
11. Reflecting on Jonah's experience, can you recall a time when you experienced God's grace despite your disobedience? How did that situation shape your understanding of God's character?

12. In what ways have you seen God's discipline lead to positive changes or growth in your life or the lives of others around you?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?

14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them Jonah 1:17-2:10. Use the following questions to have a discussion about how God knows our secret desires and actions.

1. What happened to Jonah after he was thrown into the sea?
Answer: A big fish swallowed Jonah, and he was inside the fish for three days and three nights.
2. How did Jonah pray while he was inside the fish?
Answer: Jonah prayed to the Lord, his God, asking for help and thanking Him for saving him.
3. What did Jonah promise to do if God saved him?
Answer: Jonah promised to praise God and make sacrifices to Him, and he also promised to fulfill his vows to God.
4. What did God do after Jonah prayed?
Answer: God commanded the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land.
5. How did the sailors react when they found out Jonah was the reason for the storm? (Jonah 1:10-12; Proverbs 28:13)
Answer: The sailors were scared and asked Jonah what they should do. Jonah admitted his fault and told them to throw him into the sea to calm the storm. This shows that admitting our wrongs is important.
6. What did the sailors do before they threw Jonah into the sea? (Jonah 1:14-16; Matthew 8:26-27)
Answer: The sailors prayed to God, asking Him not to hold them guilty for throwing Jonah into the sea. They also made vows to God after the sea became calm, showing their respect and fear of God's power, similar to how Jesus calmed the storm.
7. How does Jonah's experience inside the fish compare to Jesus' time in the tomb? (Matthew 12:40)
Answer: Just like Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights, Jesus was in the tomb for three days and three nights before He rose from the dead. Both events show God's power to save and bring new life.
9. Why is it important to obey God, even when it's hard?
Answer: Obeying God is important because He knows what is best for us and others. Even when it's hard, God will help us and take care of us, just like He took care of Jonah.
10. What are some ways you can show gratitude to God for His help and grace?
Answer: We can pray, sing songs of praise, help others, and share God's love with our friends and family as ways to show gratitude to God.
11. How can you trust God when you're in a difficult situation, like Jonah was inside the fish?
Answer: We can trust God by remembering His promises in the Bible, praying to Him, and believing that He is always with us and will help us, just like He helped Jonah.

WORD FIND

Jonah 1:17 - 2:10

D E P T H S V O I C E B
G W P J O N A H L I F E
R H L T H R E E T T I L
B I L L O W S A V D S L
E E C O V C S R Y I H Y
C U R R E N T T A S O L
A A I D R B E E N T L E
L V E G C I G M S R Y H
L G D D A Y S P W E T P
E R F T M K H L E S H H
D E B R E A K E R S E E
K A P P O I N T E D N L
U T B W H E A R D E E P

The **LORD** appointed a **great fish** to swallow **Jonah**, and **Jonah** was in the **belly** of the **fish three days** and **three** nights. **Jonah** prayed to the **LORD** his God from the **belly** of the **fish**: I **called** to the **LORD** in my **distress**, and he **answered** me. I **cried** out for **help** from **deep** inside Sheol; you **heard** my **voice**. When you threw me into the **depths**, into the **heart** of the seas, and the **current overcame** me. All your **breakers** and your **billows** swept over me. And I said, "I have **been** banished from your sight, yet I will look once more toward your **holy temple**. The water engulfed me up to the neck; the watery **depths overcame** me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. I sank to the foundations of the mountains, the earth's gates shut behind me forever! **Then** you raised my **life** from the Pit, **LORD** my God! As my **life** was fading away, I remembered the **LORD**, and my prayer came to you, to your **holy temple**. Those who cherish worthless idols abandon their faithful love, but as for me, I will sacrifice to you with a **voice** of thanksgiving.