

To the ends of the Earth

Jonah 2

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

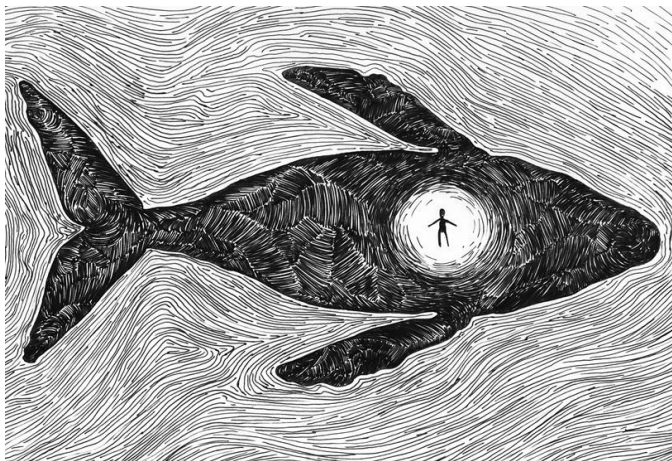
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Jonah 2:9

“But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

In chapter 2 of Jonah, we see Jonah’s prayer from the belly of the fish. Jonah had been on the run from the Lord. He received direct instruction to go to Nineveh, but he went in the opposite direction toward Tarshish. Jonah rebelled from the Lord not doing what he was commanded to do. Now Jonah finds himself in the belly of a fish in the middle of the sea. There he remembers the Lord and the salvation the Lord offers. Jonah prays to the Lord turning back to worship Him as the one true God. We see God’s character of grace and forgiveness as He grants Jonah deliverance from the belly of the fish.

Jonah 2 (NASB)

Jonah's Prayer

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, ² and he said,

"I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me.

I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.

³"For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

⁴"So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

⁵"Water encompassed me to the point of death.

The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.

⁶"I descended to the roots of the mountains.

The earth with its bars *was* around me forever,

But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

⁷"While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

⁸"Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,

⁹But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD."

¹⁰Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why did Jonah pray to God when he had just been running from God?

9. What do you think was the purpose of Jonah's prayer?

10. Do you think Jonah expected God to save Him?

11. How do we see God's forgiveness and salvation illustrated in the passage?

12. Can a fish really swallow a man whole? Can he live through it?

3 EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Jonah rebelled against the Lord but it does not disqualify him from ministry. Is there rebellion that can disqualify us from ministry?

14. How does our rebellion affect our ministry?

15. God's grace is seen in His restoring Jonah. How can God's grace impact our ability to minister to others?

16. How can we overcome thoughts of feeling inadequate in order to share Christ with others? What can we do to remind ourselves that God can use us no matter what is in our past?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES