

“Jonah’s Prayer” - Week 3

Welcome

Take the first few moments of your group time this week to recap by having your group members share any points or themes they have noticed in the first half of the book.

Study/Discussion

Read: Jonah 1:17

- ▶ This week, we finished chapter 1 of Jonah by looking at the last verse. In this verse we see God appoint a great fish to swallow Jonah, and save his life, as he sinks in the sea. What is your immediate reaction to God saving Jonah?
- ▶ We’re also introduced to Jonah as a “Christ figure” in this verse. By enduring 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish, Jonah is later referenced by Jesus (Mat. 12:40) in parallel to his future suffering and death. What is it like for you to see Jesus’ life death and resurrection reflected in the story of Jonah? Can you think of other figures from the Old Testament who do this?

Read: Jonah 2:1-10

- ▶ Chapter two is almost entirely composed of a prayer (or psalm) from Jonah, praising God for his grace, mercy, and power. However, this prayer does not come until after Jonah is in the belly of the fish. Why do you think it took Jonah so long to address God in this way? Can you think of a time in your life when it took you

many wrong turns before turning to God with gratitude and praise?

- ▶ In verse 3, Jonah attributes the flood that surrounds him to God (“your waves”, “your billows”). How significant do you think it is that Jonah is attributing these elements to God’s control, yet does not seem to blame God for his impending death?
- ▶ At the end of chapter two, God commands the fish to spit Jonah back onto dry land. If you were Jonah, what would your first thoughts be in this moment?

Closing

- ▶ What is the most important principle you have learned from these first two chapters of Jonah?

Accountability

Take your time to carefully approach the topic of accountability. Show the group how serious you are by continuing to share your struggles, and they will be more willing to join you.

- ▶ What struggles are the most prevalent in your life right now?
- ▶ How can your Life Group encourage you in your efforts to overcome these struggles?

Prayer

End your time together with a short time of prayer and support.