

For the Living of These Days

Session 2: Jonah – Running to God

“...the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17

God’s not finished with Jonah, yet!

God rescued Jonah

Can you think of a time that God rescued you even before you asked to be rescued?

God provided for Jonah

Can you think of a time that God provided an ‘interesting’ place for you to be alone and think on the things of God?

God used Jonah’s experience to impact the lives of others

What do you think is the relevance of Jonah being in the belly of the big fish three days and three nights?

Jesus’ reference to Jonah is found in Matthew 12:38-41

Jonah’s prayer

Jonah’s prayer is composed almost entirely of sentences found in Psalms.

Jonah was a man who knew the scripture and prayed the scripture.

Song of Thanksgiving Jonah 2:1-2

“From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:

‘In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.’” Jonah 2:1-2 New International Version

Compare with Psalm 18:6-7 and Psalm 120:1

God listens to Jonah!

God listens to us!

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.’ 1 John 5:14-15

Jonah recounts what happened to him because he ran away (because he had disobeyed God) and what God, in return, did for him. Jonah 2:3-6

"You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit." Jonah 2:3-6 New International Version

Compare 2:3 to Psalm 42:7, 2:4 to Psalm 31:22, 2:5 to Psalm 18:4 & 69:2 and 2:6 to Psalm 30:5

Can you relate to any of Jonah's feelings in this prayer?

Jonah remembers the Lord. Jonah 2:7

"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple." Jonah 2:7 New International Version

Compare to Psalm 142:3

Why is it that we often don't turn to the Lord until we feel that is nowhere else for us to turn?

Jonah delivers a message to those who worship idols (false gods) Jonah 2:8

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." Jonah 2:8 New International Version

Compare to Psalm 31:6 and Isaiah 44:9-10, 18-20

Why do you think Jonah mentioned those who worshipped idols in this prayer?

During the living of Jonah's days as recorded in the book of Jonah was Jonah guilty of worshipping an idol (of making something or someone more important to him than God?)

What idols are we tempted to worship during the living of these days?

Jonah recommits to serve God Jonah 2:9

"But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'" Jonah 2:9 New International Version

Compare to Psalm 42:4

Who else in Jonah's story took this same action and make vows to the Lord?

The Lord speaks to the fish and it obeys! Jonah 2:10

"And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." Jonah 2:10 NIV