

08 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Jonah

 Let's hear your story

1. How would you encourage a friend, family member or work colleague that is going through a very difficult situation, that is out of their control?
2. From where did Jonah pray to the Lord according to Jonah 2:1? **(From the belly of the fish).**
3. True or false; Jonah's prayer in v.2 is the same as Psalm 18:6? **(True).**
4. What can we learn from Jonah's prayer in the belly of the fish? **(Jonah prayed scripture from memory, Jonah was honest with God and Jonah gave his burdens to God in prayer.).**

 Let's go deeper

5. How did Jonah overcome idols in v.9? **(By worshipping God with a voice of thanksgiving, sacrifice and what he vowed, he paid to God.).**
6. According to the end of v.9; to whom does salvation belongs? **(Salvation belongs to the Lord.).**
7. How did Jonah end up on dry ground? **(See v.10; And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.).**
8. Give one reason how Jesus is greater than Jonah? **(Jonah prayed to God the Savior, but Jesus came as God and Jonah's Savior.).**

 Let's apply this

9. How do you respond in hopeless situations or seasons in your life?

We read in v.1; "Then Jonah prayed (turned) to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish...).

- Jonah stopped running from the Lord and turned to Him in prayer.
- Jonah was honest to the Lord and transferred his burdens to the Lord
- Are you still running from the Lord, or turning to Him in prayer?
- Is there a friend or someone you feel safe with and can be honest to?
- Are there any burdens you carry that you can give to the Lord?

SUMMARY:

- **Jonah - Week 2**

Read: Jonah 2:1 – 10 and Hebrews 4:15 – 16.

v.1; Jonah, is turning around to meet with God. If you think, you have run too far from God. Let me tell you, if you turn around, Jesus is right there. God pursues us, as He pursues Jonah. Jonah's been running as hard and as fast and as far as he can from God. As soon as he stops and turns around, there's the Lord.

v.2 – 7; Jonah stops running to meet with the Lord. Imagine you're in his situation, it is pitch black and total darkness for three days. You can't move. Your alone, you don't know what day or time it is, you are battling to breathe, you feel like you're dying. What do you do? What Jonah does is he prays. He prays to the Lord and it doesn't change the Lord, but it changes Jonah's heart towards the Lord.

Jonah prays scripture: He knew God's Word by heart, there was no Bible or candle in the fish's belly. (See Psalm 18:6; Psalm 42:7 and Psalm 31:22.).

Jonah is honest with God. The only way we know what happened and what he said, is because he told us, it was just him and the Lord.

Jonah gives his burdens to the Lord in prayer. He's in a situation that he has no control over, and he transfer the burdens to the Lord in prayer.

v.8 – 10; What are some idols in Jonah's life?

Racial prejudice; we read in chapter 4:2, when God saves the Ninevites, here's what Jonah says, "This is why I refused to go. I knew you were going to love them." And Jonah's really angry. He's got prejudice.

Comfort; Jonah is saying; I want to be in Israel, not Nineveh. I want to be praised as a Prophet, I don't want to go to Nineveh and tell them to repent. I want to be with people like me, not with people who hate me. I am comfortable.

How do you overcome idolatry?

You worship God with the voice of thanksgiving. That's your words, singing, praying, praising, proclaiming. I will sacrifice, that's your works, living a life of service and obedience unto the Lord. And what I vowed, I will pay, that's your wallet,

Jesus is greater Jonah:

Jonah ran from the will of God, but Jesus remained in the will of God. Jonah met with God unwillingly, but Jesus met with God continually. Jonah wrestled with God and the fish, but Jesus wrestled with God in a garden. Jonah was punished for his sin, but Jesus was punished for our sin. Jonah was in a big fish for three days and nights, Jesus was in a grave. Jonah wanted his enemies judged, but Jesus came to save His enemies. Jonah prayed to God the Saviour, but Jesus came as God and Jonah's Saviour.