

“No Escape” - Jonah 1:15-2:10

Ask - “Where is the strangest, most isolated place you’ve ever prayed? Share your story.”

Background - God called Jonah to go preach salvation to the people of Nineveh, but he didn’t want to because they were enemies of Israel. So Jonah caught a ship that was sailing the opposite direction. However, when a storm arose on the sea, the desperate sailors threw the reluctant prophet overboard...

“Fish Food” - Jonah 1:15-17

(v15) Read the preceding verses. Why did the sailors throw Jonah overboard into the sea? What happened as soon as they did?

(v16) What did these pagan sailors do when the storm ceased and the sea calmed? How was their faith changed? Discuss.

(v17) What happened to Jonah? For how long was he in the belly of the fish? What does this foreshadow (see Matthew 12:40)?

JONAH WAS CAST INTO THE SEA AND SWALLOWED BY A BIG FISH. HE REMAINED IN THE FISH’S BELLY FOR 3 DAYS AND NIGHTS,

“Belly Prayer” - Jonah 2:1-6a

(v1-2) What did Jonah do while he was in the stomach of the fish? Did God hear and answer his prayer?

(v3-4) Did Jonah understand that God had brought him to this place? Did he know why it had happened? Was Jonah hopelessly in despair?

(v5-6a) How did Jonah describe his current condition?

JONAH PRAYED WHILE IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH. HE KNEW THAT HIS SIN HAD LED HIM THERE AND THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL.

“Fish Vomit” - Jonah 2:6b-10

(v6b-7) Though his situation was dire, what did Jonah do? How would the LORD answer him?

(v8-9) How were Jonah’s actions different from those of idolaters? What did he commit to do? What did Jonah acknowledge concerning salvation?

(v10) Did God spare Jonah, as he’d prophetically prayed? If so, how?

JONAH PRAYED FOR SALVATION AND THE LORD HEARD HIS CRY. THE FISH SPIT HIM UP ON THE SEASHORE.

Application - God used the great fish to save Jonah from drowning in the sea. While in the fish's belly, Jonah recognized the LORD's compassion and promised to act in obedience. God delivered Jonah to complete his mission. Sometimes we find ourselves in a desperate situation. Could it be that the difficult circumstances we face are actually a work of God's mercy and that He is trying to get our attention? Think about it and discuss it with the class.