

JONAH: Week 2 – Jonah's Prayer

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

In Jonah chapter one, God directed Jonah to go to Nineveh. However, Jonah disobeyed boarding a ship that was headed for Tarshish. The sailors of the ship became concerned because of the great storm that brewed. Jonah explained that God was bringing judgment upon him. The sailors threw him into the sea where he was swallowed by an enormous fish. Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Tell the story – Jonah 2 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God always hears our cries for help; God answers our prayers; God is a Rescuer, delivering us from our own destruction; God brings His truth to our remembrance at the most critical moments; salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone (John 14:6); it is the goodness of God that brings us to repentance (Romans 2:4); God knows the motives behind my prayers; God disciplines us so that we might grow in righteousness (Hebrews 12:11); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I often see prayer as my last resort; I grow weary in following the Lord; the idols that I follow are only full of empty promises; I suffer the consequences of my sinful actions; I can sometimes cry out to God because I'm in danger, not because I delight to spend time with Him; I have forgotten what it feels like to be lost and hopeless without Jesus; I struggle with surrendering certain areas of my life to the Lord; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. When have you felt like you were in a deep, dark pit either physically, emotionally, or spiritually? Why do you think we have to sink so low before we remember God?
2. At what point in your life were you closest to turning away from following the Lord?

Assign next week's passage – Jonah 3 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

JONAH: Week 2 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Remember as you start your group time that there should be a progression in your conversation. Most people are coming in from a hectic morning of getting the kids ready, or coming straight from work. They are not always ready to dive into deep conversation in the first five minutes. Here is a possible flow of questions in your group: ice breaker questions, dissecting questions about the passage, reflection questions, and application questions. Always remember that because your Grow Group will only go as deep as you are willing to go, you must model transparency and authenticity.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Recent research shows that the biggest predictor of spiritual growth is Bible reading. As a leader, one way to help your people grow is to encourage them to read God's Word daily. Here are a few ways to encourage those you are mentoring to read God's Word:

- Provide the reason. People must be motivated to do things. Remind them that reading God's Word is a necessity and also a great privilege.
- Provide the resource. People say they don't read because they don't have time. We can offer high tech solutions like One Day (sign up by calling Denise in the church office), Bible apps, and also Bibles on audio. Offer to help them find a reliable devotional app.
- Provide the reminder. Remind your members regularly of the importance of being in the Word. As they create the habit, and reap the benefits of a deeper relationship with Christ, they will need fewer reminders.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

It's one thing to affirm the reality of hell in our heads, but it's another thing entirely to be gripped by this truth to the point it affects our actions. If we truly believe that people who do not know Christ will face an eternity without Him in judgment, then certain implications follow. Currently, one-third of the people on our planet claim to be Christians, while two-thirds do not name the name of Jesus. Some estimate that there are 3 billion people who have little to no access to the gospel. There are more than six thousand unreached people groups.

Are you being missional in your everyday life? Do you have a sense of urgency about His return? Are you engaging others in gospel-centered conversations?