



# jonah

## **WEEK 2 - JONAH'S PRAYER**

### **OVERVIEW**

While in the belly of the fish for three days and nights, Jonah declares a psalm of thanksgiving to God. In it, he not only recognizes God's power to condemn and to save but turns his heart back to obedience to the Lord's commands. While he is having this (unfortunately temporary) change of perspective, God is preparing for the fish to spit him back out on land to continue in his mission of prophesying to wicked Nineveh. As a prophet delivered from the (literal) jaws of death, his authority to bring a message of truth is confirmed.

With this sequence of events in mind, it makes sense why Jesus references this story in Matthew and Luke. According to him, the Ninevites go on to believe his message because Jonah had been delivered from death. In the same way, when Jesus gives the unbelievers of his day "the sign of Jonah," being delivered from the grave himself, it will be confirmation that his message has the authority of the Lord behind it.

*I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows.  
For my salvation comes from the LORD alone.  
Jonah 1:9*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss the significance of the "Sign of Jonah" referred to in [Matthew 12:38-42](#)?
2. How comfortable are you with the fact that God's mercy and grace is for everyone, no matter the extent of their sin?
3. Read [Jonah 2:8](#). What are some examples of false gods we worship in today's culture?
4. Why do you think we have such a hard time extending mercy to others?
5. Share some practical ways we could demonstrate God's mercy?
6. What lesson(s) can we learn from Jonah's disobedience?
7. What does the story of Jonah demonstrate about God's desire to forgive those who repent, regardless of their past?

**RESOURCES**  
gracechurch.us