

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Jonah***Chapter 2: Salvation Belongs to the Lord***OVERVIEW**

We have to read Jonah in context of the whole story of the Bible – it's not a random moralistic tale haphazardly placed in the middle of a disconnected book. Jonah is part of a larger story, God's story as it's told in God's word. With that in mind, we see that Jonah is not simply about a disobedient prophet and big fish. Jonah shows us God's sovereign mercy and grace that overcomes our rebellion for the glory of his name among the nations. In short, God's boundless compassion swallows up our prejudice for his glory, our gladness and our neighbors good.

**APPLY // JONAH 1**

1. Read Jonah 1-2.
2. Discuss why Jonah refuses to listen to God's word.
3. How are we tempted to be like Jonah? Specifically, what might this look like in our lives.
4. What result does Jonah's disobedience have on himself? On those around him? What does this look like in our own lives?
5. Discuss all the ways you see God's sovereign grace and boundless compassion in Jonah 1. What does this tell you about the character of God?
6. How does the grace and mercy shown to Jonah (and the sailors) encourage you? How does this challenge you extend and explain God's steadfast love to others?
7. Discuss how Jonah fits into the story line of the Bible and points to the greater Jonah, Jesus Christ.

**STUDY // JONAH 2**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Re-read Jonah 2.
2. What themes do you see in Jonah's prayer?
3. How does Jonah view God in this prayer?
4. How does Jonah view himself in this prayer?
5. Contrast Jonah's behavior here with his behavior in chapter 1.
6. What's absent from Jonah's prayer? (E.g. He just wants to go home. Jonah never says anything about Nineveh or his running. He doesn't apologize. He doesn't repent. He doesn't say he'll go to Nineveh.)
7. How does God answer Jonah's prayer? What does this tell you about the character of God?
8. How are we like Jonah in chapter 2?
9. Discuss how Jonah's prayer informs and encourages our prayer life.

- General Bible study questions:
  - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** How have you experienced God's steadfast love overcoming your rebellion? How does this motivate you to extend and explain this gospel love to others?