

FUSION Q's...Jonah Part 2: Confessions from the Gutter

Discussion Theme: salvation

1. Theme Question for discussion...

- ☆ Where do you turn to when things go wrong?

2. Read Jonah 2

3. Discussing the text

Leader's Heads up: Jonah's confessions about who God is are incredible considering the horrible circumstances with which he finds himself - in the dark, stinky, retched stomach of a fish with no possible way out (impending death). This is about as bad as it gets!

- ☆ How did Jonah respond to being eaten by a fish?
- ☆ Did he blame God for his predicament? Why not?
- ☆ How do you think you would respond if this happened to you?
- ☆ As we read what Jonah says while in the fish belly, he says "I will look again at your holy temple". It appears as though Jonah knows that God will save him. Why do think Jonah would think like this when God had just caused a big fish to eat him?
- ☆ Why would God save him after he deliberately disobeyed God?

4. Redirection

One of the things we learn from Jonah is that even in the most difficult situations we find ourselves there is always hope for those who put their trust in God. This is even more encouraging since we know that the situation Jonah is in is because he has disobeyed God in the first place. The problem for us, however, is that when we get ourselves into trouble we rarely accept the blame for our bad choices and start praising God for who he is. Rather, we usually try and blame someone else (sometimes God) for what is happening to us. The fact that God hears Jonah's prayer and saves him from a slow horrible death is very significant because it shows us that God is in the business of saving people.

5. Digging Deeper

Leader's key thought: in this chapter Jonah does something we rarely see - accept responsibility for his actions and praise God in his hardship.

- ☆ How do you normally respond when you find yourself in a difficult place? Do you find that your first reaction is to admit it when it's your own fault or blame others?
- ☆ Why do we often blame others when things go wrong?
- ☆ What steps can you take to make sure you take responsibility for your actions instead of blaming everyone and everything else?
- ☆ Jonah praises God instead of blaming him or accusing him of wrong-doing or "unfairness" when he is in the fish. Is it possible to praise God when things go horribly wrong in our lives? How?