



JONAH

BENEATH THE SURFACE

HITTING ROCK BOTTOM

February 14, 2021 - Discussion Guide

WORSHIP

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17 aloud. Take a moment to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

FELLOWSHIP

Share one word to describe how you're feeling in this moment.

DISCUSSION

Watch this [sermon overview video](#) to refresh your group on this week's message. Then discuss the questions below.

1. Jonah thought being thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish meant certain death, but God sent the fish to save Jonah and give him another chance.

-Has God ever used something that initially seemed negative for your growth, blessing, or salvation?

-Is there a "great fish" in your life that God might currently be using in this way?

2. Read Jonah 1:17-2:10.

-Do you interpret Jonah's prayer as truly repentant? Why or why not? Consider the passage, the whole story, and even other prayers of repentance (e.g., Psalm 51).

[Note to Leaders: Biblical scholars and pastors are not in agreement on this question, and your group may not be either. The point is to closely examine and respectfully discuss the text, while inviting the Spirit's guidance and remembering the larger themes of the book.]

-What are the implications of Jonah's level of sincerity?

-What do God's actions in this passage reveal about His character?

3. Read the quote below from J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

"The grace of God is love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit...Once a person is convinced that his state and need are as described, the New Testament gospel of grace cannot but sweep him off his feet with wonder and joy. For it tells how our Judge has become our Savior."¹

- When has the gospel “[swept] you off your feet”?

- As one who has received God’s grace, how much grace do you offer yourself and others?

4. Read Hebrews 9:1-7, 11-15.

- Compare the “first covenant” and the “new covenant”.

- How did Christ set us free from our sins? What did it cost Him?

- How does this passage affect your understanding of your sin and God’s grace?

5. How can you cultivate a soft, repentant heart before God this week?

Consider giving up something for Lent and attending an Ash Wednesday service (online and campus options listed [here](#))

PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests; try to remember any needs that came up during the fellowship or discussion time. Check in on requests from last week, if you can. Does anyone have a practical need that another group member may be able to help with?

Pray for group, church, and community needs.