

# JONAH



Should I not be  
**Concerned?**



# Study 1—Salvation belongs to the LORD

## Jonah 2

### Personal Preparation – A bit of background

By now we've heard the first talk on Jonah 1. From what you remember of the talk, summarise in a sentence what you think the book is about. If you can't remember **have a quick read of Jonah 1:1-16** and write down what you think it's about. In fact, have a read of Jonah 1:1-16 even if you can remember the talk.

If you're like most people you probably didn't know much about Jonah. Most people only know he was swallowed by a big fish. But as we've seen from Jonah 1 there's much more to the book. **Jonah's a sign for Israel, teaching them a lesson; that God's concerned for the nations, not just Israel.** His concern is to take the Fear of God (i.e. the knowledge & wisdom of God) to the nations (who are represented by Nineveh and the sailors). In Jonah 1, he didn't want to take the Fear of God to Nineveh, so he runs away. Yet, by doing that he ironically takes it to the sailors. Whether Jonah's willing or not he's going to take the Fear of God to the nations.

**Have a read of Genesis 12:1-3.** This is where the nation of Israel begins and this passage outlines why Israel was created. Why was Israel created according to this passage and what will happen to nations that don't support them?

Looking now at Jonah himself, and keeping Genesis 12 in mind, **have a read of 2 King 14:23-27.** What message from God was given to Jonah for the surrounding nations (keep in mind these nations were attacking Israel)?

Jonah's clearly pro Israel and happy to prophecy against those nations which opposed Israel. **Now take a look at 2 Kings 18:13-15.** Nineveh's mentioned throughout 2 Kings but this passage summarises the relationship between Israel and Nineveh. From this passage, how would you summarise the relationship between Israel and Nineveh?

Given Nineveh's attacking Israel, it's meant to be surprising that he didn't want to go and "*preach against it*". So when Jonah refuses to obey God and preach against Nineveh God punishes Jonah. **Have a look now at Deuteronomy 29:18b-21.** What will happen to the person who forsakes / runs away from God?

**For Today:** God is concerned for the nations. His concern is to bring the fear of God to the nations through Israel. But Jonah, as an Israelite, refused to do this and brought the covenant curses upon himself. Because Israel failed to listen to the message of Jonah and failed to take God to the nations, Christ came to do it for Israel. Today, the church is suppose continue the work of Christ in the world. We are supposed to take the Fear of God to the nations. But how do we do that? Do you Fear God? Would an outsider watching you think that you Fear God?



## Salvation belongs to the LORD

### Group Discussion Questions

In Jonah 1 we saw the death of Jonah. By the end we find him thrown overboard with no expectation of survival, all because he refused to go to Nineveh. This demonstration of God's power led the sailors to Fear God. If God's prepared to punish one of his own Israelite children with that much power, then he's to be feared. But Jonah 2 now finds him sitting in the belly of a fish singing a Poem.

**Have a read of Jonah 1:17-2:9.** Can you imagine what it would be like to spend 3 days in the belly of a big fish like Jonah? From what you've just seen, how would you summarise what happens to Jonah in this Chapter?

If your GG is a typical cross section of society then you're going to have a variety of audio, visual and kinaesthetic learners. To make sure we don't leave anyone out have a go at the following: break your GG into 3 groups. Group 1, if you had to draw the scene in vs 1-4 what scene would you draw (and then draw it)? Group 2 discuss and draw vs 5-6 and group 3 discuss and draw vs 7-9. After this come back together and explain the key features of your drawing and how it relates to the passage.

From what you've learnt from the passage and from the drawings list all the things which God does to Jonah in this chapter.

This question will help show who read chapter 1 and did the personal preparation this week. Why does God do these things to Jonah?

Since you've now had a chance to think through the passage it's time to have a go at being theological scholars in a current debate. It's not a significant debate but it's interesting as it impacts whether the chapter ends on a high or begins on a high. The issue is, at what point is Jonah "rescued", when he was swallowed by the fish or when he was vomited up?

Jonah's been so stubborn towards God right to the end (it's only at the last minute that he actually calls out). So why does God now turn around and saved him after he sent the curses on him?

Take a look at Jeremiah 4:1-2, Zechariah 1:2-6 & Psalm 77:11-15: do these passages change the way you would answer the last question?



Comparing Psalm 77:11-15 with Jonah 2:6-9 how is Jonah returning to God?  
What does Jonah do that indicates he has returned to the Lord?

The fact that God now sends the Great Fish to swallow Jonah (thus rescuing him) indicates that God has now returned to Jonah. God has not forgotten his covenant promises and saves Jonah after he returned to God. The way in which God has moved both heaven and earth to curse then rescue Jonah has reminded him that God alone is the God of salvation. Only God can save. What are some ways we at mpc can show that we've forgotten that God alone can save? What are some things we tend to trust in for safety and security before God?

Is repentance something we need to keep doing after we have turned to God in the first place? Or is it something just do once on the day we become a Christian?

What does on going repentance look like?

What would repentance look like in your life (this is a personal question for you to ponder privately)?