



Dig Deeper @Home – “Relenting God, Relentless Love”
Complement to sermon on May 29 – “Forsaking Our Way”

MEMORIZE – Jonah 2:8

“Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God’s mercies”

READ Jonah 1:17-2:10

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. What do you see in Jonah’s prayer: a psalm of thanksgiving? A call for help? Recommitment? What do you make of the fact that Jonah prays “inside the fish” (v. 1) and uses verbs in the past tense as though God had already answered the prayer.
4. As you read Jonah’s prayer, compare verse 3 of chapter 2 with 1:15. How does Jonah view his circumstances? God’s control? God’s purposes?
5. When have you felt like Jonah – far from God, enmeshed in a situation beyond your control? How was your life brought “up from the pit?” Where in your life are you desperate enough to pray with hope as Jonah does?
6. Proverbs 28:13 (ESV) says that “whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” How does that verse apply to Jonah’s prayer?

Bottom Line (give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture you just read):

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The below is one suggestion for how to experience the truths of Jonah 2. Feel free to use this one or any you might come up with.

“Sardines”

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a fish. It was a tight space for sure. Try to play this game with a group at night. This is "Hide and Seek" backwards. Only one player hides and all the lights are out in the house, and the other players go hunting individually. When a hunter finds the hiding place, though, instead of announcing it, that player gets into the hiding place, too. And so it goes. As each hunter finds the hiding place, the hunter joins the hunted until they are crowded - you guessed it - like sardines. The game goes on until the last hunter finds the sardines.

SING (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus say <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AmFu58Tk2Y> In the Hymnal #231, this song reflects the fact that when we confess our sins and turn to Jesus we find help, forgiveness and grace to live for Him.

Lord, I Need You - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA> When you sing this song, confess to the Lord your need for Him and your desire to love Him and serve Him.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and praise reports. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to show up in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Thank you, Father, for your patience and determination. It is impossible to run from you. You could have let Jonah die and simply found a more willing servant, but you did not give up on him. Lord, thank you for not giving up on me and for your mercy and compassion that are new every day. Cleanse my heart, Lord and fill me with compassion for those who are lost. Amen.