

Sermon Discussion Questions

Jonah: The Dark (Week 2) – Matt Slocum
13 August 2023
Sermon Text: Jonah 1:17-2:10

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

How long do we have gratitude for the things God has redeemed us from? Or places He has restored us from? As time goes on have you found yourself grumbling wishing God would do something sooner or different in your life? If so, you're not alone. In week two of our Jonah series, we see Jonah faced the same feelings. But in spite of that, he realized God was good and working on his behalf. We also can know that God is still good and is still works on our behalf. Let's dive into **Jonah – The Dark**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to see if there was a "Jonah" in your boat causing the storms all around you? Were there people who came to mind who are suffering because of your decisions? How did spending this time with God impact your relationship with Him?
2. What is the most impactful thing you got from the message this week?
3. What do most people think about when they hear the story of Jonah? Do you remember what the early church thought of the story? What about the Israelites? What did they think of the story?
4. In the story of Jonah, one of the things we often miss is that God sent the big fish that swallowed Jonah. Jonah found himself in the dark, in the belly of a fish that God sent. How might this upend our notion that everything we identify as "bad" comes from Satan?
5. Have you ever thought "if God was listening to me, I wouldn't be in this dark place"? Or, have you ever thought that your circumstances indicate what God thinks about you? How does the story of Jonah shed a new light on those questions? What did Jonah do in the belly of the fish? What can we do when we find ourselves in those dark places?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. What is your favorite Fall activity? Why?
2. What is your least favorite Fall activity?
3. When was the last time you went apple picking or went on a hayride?

6. God's main purpose is to call people to Him and to mold and shape their character into His image. If it takes finding oneself in the belly of a sea monster for God to achieve His purpose, so be it? How do you respond to that statement?

APPLICATION

Are you experiencing a dark place or time in your life right now? Are you feeling all alone in the dark? Read Jonah 2:2-9. Try to pray like Jonah and recognize that even in the depth of your dark place, God is there and He is working. Can praying like this change our attitude regarding our situation?

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on at NWC, go to <https://nwckc.com> or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Study materials are also available on the website or Facebook page.

Family Sunday, 20 August, 9 and 11 am, Oak Park HS. School age kids bring their backpacks to be blessed.

FINAL THOUGHT

Sometimes having us in a dark place is the best thing God can do for us.