

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 1/14/2024

Jonah 2

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- **Have you ever worked 5x harder doing something your way, rather than God's way because you wanted to be in control?**
- When you get thrown overboard in the Mediterranean Sea, you die.
- Jonah went down to Joppa, down to the belly of the ship, down to the sea, down to the belly of the fish.
- **Jonah 1:17** God PROVIDED the HUGE fish. It was not happenstance
- When you get eaten by a giant fish, you die.
 - Jonah is likely in pain and is hurting. He's not sitting comfortably in the stomach or on the "whale's" tongue. He's been there for 3 days – he might be in the intestines and the fish may have been trying to push him out. Nevertheless, it wouldn't be comfortable.
- **Jonah 2:1** – It would have been ugly and messy
- **Jonah 2:2** – realm of the dead = sheol (Hades, Hell, etc.)
 - **Is that or has it been your prayer? When you have been in the realm of the dead, have you called to the Lord?**
 - Wherever you find yourself, God is listening; which is different from God is hearing you.
- **Where death existed the Lord provided life.**
- **Jonah 2:3-4** Jonah says "You" hurled me. Jonah knows God did it (even though the sailors carried it out. Jonah says "Your waves..." Jonah knows God is Creator.
 - Jonah is acknowledging it's not about him, it's all about God.
 - I'm looking at You (Your temple), and not myself in my troubles.
 - **Have you ever been in a place where you thought God abandoned you?**
- **In moments where you feel alone, look toward Jesus anyway. You are not alone!**
 - When your feelings betray you, the fear of the Lord doesn't.
- **Jonah 2:5-6** "seaweed wrapped around your head" means tethered to me and pulling back into the water.
 - "But you..." But God. **What is your "But God" story?**
 - God took Jonah from death to life.
- **Jonah 2:7** One of your biggest weapons when you're facing "death" (depression, hurt, etc.) is to remember Jesus. When you commit to Him, your life will change.
 - **Do you remember Jesus when you're hurting? Talk about that.**
- **Jonah 2:8-9** What the sailors did, Jonah is now doing in the belly of the huge fish:
 - Fearing the Lord (shouts of praise), sacrifice, vow.
 - Idol = hebel = vapor. **What does clinging to vapor look like?**
 - Instead of clinging to vapor, cling to Jesus. Grab onto Him.
 - **What are you clinging to instead of Jesus that gets in the way?**
 - Whatever you cling to other than the love of Jesus is hebel.
- **Jonah 2:10** That moment when "but God" kicks in is miserable (vomit).
 - It's ugly and messy because everything has to change.
 - The point where you repent and move toward obedience is a messy place.
 - **When have you been vomited? When have you found yourself in a mess because you chose to cling to Jesus instead of something else.**

What are you clinging to that keeps you from the love of Jesus? Where do you start or restart moving in a different direction?

- 1. Over next 7 days set aside intentional prayer time focusing majority of your time on who He is rather than what you need. How is that going?**
- 2. Our feelings betray us. Make a list on paper of how God has shown up in your life. Are you willing to share with the group.**
- 3. In order to cling to the love of God, acknowledge the things in your life you have to stop clinging to and tell someone. Are you willing to share with the group?**

Where death existed, the Lord provided life. See Matthew 12:38-41. Jesus knew!

Where death existed, the Lord provided life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.