

JONAH

THE SCANDALOUS DEPTHS OF GRACE

The Heart of the Sea Introduction

1.) What Jonah Gets RIGHT About Grace

a.) *Jonah believes God will answer and rescue him, though he doesn't deserve it.*

Jonah 2:1, 4-7; 1 Kings 8:27-29

b.) *Jonah recognizes God's hand in his circumstances - especially the hard ones.*

Jonah 2:3

CS Lewis: *"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

2.) What Jonah Gets WRONG About Grace

a.) *Jonah never actually repents for his actions.*

Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 4:17

Martin Luther: *"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."*

b.) *Jonah is willing to accept mercy for himself, but not for others.*

Jonah 2:8-9; Jonah 1:16

CS Lewis: *"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."*

Conclusion



Creekside Events

Sun, Apr 23, 2023 | Andrew Pak, Pastor
Creekside Christian Church

Prayer

Begin by praying for love and courage in our conversations today. May we flee from disobedience and seek forgiveness from a loving God.

My Story—Share your response to one of the following:

- a) What is the #1 household chore that you try to avoid doing or procrastinate with whenever possible?
- b) What was your favorite hiding place as a child?

Digging Deep

1) When you are experiencing times of pain or distress, where do you typically seek help from?

2) **Read Jonah 2:1 and 1 Kings 8:27-30.** What do these verses say about God's ability to hear our prayers despite where we are physically and spiritually? Have you ever been worried that God was unable to hear your prayers due to your spiritual condition? What happened?

3) Think of the emotional states of the two authors of the two passages from the previous question. Read them again if needed. Do you think they felt deserving of God's mercy during the time of their prayers? What do you think gave them the courage to pray? What helps you seek the Lord in times of need?

Digging Deeper

4) **Read Jonah 2:2-6.** How does Jonah view God's control over his circumstances? Describe Jonah's heart posture toward God in this moment.

5) As Christians, how can we balance the truth of God's control over the seasons of blessing, but also the seasons of pain? Discuss some of the purposes and lessons from each kind of season.

6) **Read Romans 12:1-2.** Jonah is inside the fish following his own disobedience to God's command to go and preach to Nineveh. As followers of Jesus, how should we be responding to God's mercy? What if others around us are living in rebellion or disobedience? What if we are in a season of rebellion?

7) **Read Jonah 2:7-9.** How does Jonah view himself in comparison to the Ninevites? When do you tend to be opposed to others who don't live like you? What is God's view?

Taking it Home

8) **Read Jonah 2:10.** Have you ever felt that you've been "vomited" out of a negative situation only to feel dirty and unworthy afterward? Even in our shame and residual pain, discuss ways we can faithfully walk in repentance toward God after we have disobeyed.

9) C.S. Lewis: *"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."* Prayerfully ponder each of these:

- 1) Something that you have done or are doing in disobedience toward God that you need forgiveness for
- 2) Someone who has caused you pain that you are struggling to forgive

If you feel led, share these things with your group. Allow members to pray for God's forgiveness over each of our sins, and ask for the Lord's help as we extend forgiveness and grace to those who have caused us pain.

Praying Together

Commit to praying this week about the prayers shared above. Let's express gratitude that we serve a God who pours out scandalous amounts of grace to sinners like us!