

Theme & Passage(s)	Salvation comes from the Lord Passages: Jonah 2
Welcome	<p>You may want to watch this 10 minute video which provides an animated overview of the book of Jonah: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLlabZc0O4c&t=44s</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Based on what we have read so far of Jonah (or from watching the video above), are there aspects of the story that have surprised or intrigued you?</p>
Worship	<p>Psalms and songs: <i>Salvation belongs to our God</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RihfmBH8JbQ <i>You never let go</i> (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm14VZVu0og)</p> <p>Worship Ideas: Read Psalm 139, focusing particularly on verses 7-10. Allow these verses to shape your prayers of praise and thanksgiving.</p>
Word/ Read & Reflect	<p>Begin in silence, welcoming the Holy Spirit to guide you. If you haven't already read the passage read it now and then be silent. Read again. Be silent once more, attentive to the Spirit.</p> <p>Share out of this experience...</p> <p>If time, consider some of the following questions... In verse 3 Jonah says the 'waves and breakers swept over me'. How does the Lord use pain, difficulty, and to the end of ourselves to bring us back to Him? Do you have any personal experience of this?</p> <p>This chapter has echoes of the parable Jesus tells about the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). What parallels can you see between the two stories? What does this tell us about God?</p> <p>Read verses 8-9. Amid the chaos Jonah seems to have a moment of clarity and honesty with God. He comes to the conclusion that it is only God who can save, and that 'worthless idols' will fail us. How does this apply to our day-to-day experience? As Christians how do we live in a way that proclaims the truth that it is God who rescues us?</p> <p>v.9 Sometimes we can make promises to God while on the 'mountaintop' (when we've just been rescued or delivered from a situation, during a significant time of worship etc.) but struggle to live up to those promises when we're back down in the valley of everyday life. Discuss whether this has been your experience. If so, are there promises you have made to God that you would like to renew or reaffirm?</p>

Working it out

During this series we are encouraging small groups to pray for the worldwide Church to be revived and for the salvation of those who do not yet know Him. If you find it challenging to pray for salvation on a large scale, perhaps ask each group member to identify one or two individuals to be praying for.

Jonah's prayer ends in thanksgiving to God and a declaration of His saving power. We too are called to declare the saving work of God in Christ so spend time praying that God will enable you in your witness.

Extra

'Prodigal Son' by Charlie Mackesy

