

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

## *Jonah - Chapter 2*

### Lesson 2

Jonah 1 ends with the words, *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.* Jonah 2 begins with the word *Then.* After Jonah was swallowed by the great fish, *then* Jonah prayed. The chapter closes with the words, *So the LORD spoke to the fish.* Regardless of how Jonah got himself in the situation he was in, God answered his prayer. May you be encouraged as you study this lesson and bask in this awesome truth.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Jonah 2**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* or *Jonah*.  
Key Words: *God (LORD), Jonah*  
Underline the phrase *I will*
3. The contrasting word *yet* is used twice in this chapter. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used once in this chapter. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
5. Notice the phrase *I will*. List the three commitments that Jonah made.

## JONAH'S PRAYER (PART 1): Read Jonah 2:1-3

1. A *great fish* had swallowed Jonah. What did Jonah do *from the fish's belly*?
  - a. Using a dictionary, define the word *prayer*.
  - b. Using your own words, define the word *prayer*.
2. Although most have not been swallowed by a great fish, what are some examples of the LORD putting a person in very uncomfortable circumstances to provoke them to reconsider their ways?
3. Jonah was running from God. God stopped Him. What might be a scary thing that God would ask of a Christian?
  - a. Why do you think we try to run from God?
4. When facing a scary situation, what is your typical response?
5. Why did Jonah *cry out to the LORD*? Verse 2
  - a. Why is *affliction* often the motivator to pray?
6. Record the last five words of Jonah 2:2.
  - a. According to Psalm 66:18, under what circumstance will God not hear our prayers?

Challenge: What are some other actions or attitudes that can hinder God from answering our prayers.
7. According to 1 John 5:14,15, what *confidence* can we have if we know God hears our prayers?
8. *For You cast me into the deep...*(Jonah 2:3). Jonah acknowledged that God had *cast him* into the sea. Chapter 1 gives us the account of Jonah being thrown into the sea. Read verse 15 and record who *cast* Jonah into the sea.

a. How do you reconcile the two statements?

1.) There are times when we cannot explain seeming contradictions in the Bible. What can we always know when we don't understand something in the Bible?

### **JONAH'S PRAYER (PART 2): Read Jonah 2:4-6**

1. Jonah 2:4 begins with a statement that is not true. What did Jonah say?

a. Record the false statement found in Isaiah 49:14.

b. What false statement did David make in Psalm 31:22?

1.) What truth did he discover?

c. Why do you think believers make statements about God that are not true?

1.) What do you do when you feel like false statements about God are true?

2. Even though Jonah felt like he had been *cast out of God's sight*, what did he say he would do?

a. What did David proclaim in Psalm 5:7?

b. How does looking to the Lord help you in times of despair?

3. Jonah vividly described his condition in Jonah 2:5,6. Record a few of the words or phrases that he used. Optional: Draw a picture of Jonah in his wretched condition.

a. The description ends with the term of conclusion *yet*. *Yet*, what had God done?

1.) In what ways has God *brought your life up from the pit*?

4. What name did Jonah call God?
  - a. What do you think is the significance of Jonah calling Him, *LORD, my God*?
  - b. List a few of God's names or characteristics you use when you pray.
    - 1.) Which do you use most often?

**JONAH'S REFLECTIONS: Read Jonah 2:7-9**

1. Reflect upon the words of Jonah 2:7. When did Jonah *remember the LORD*?
  - a. Using synonyms, define the word *fainted*.
    - 1.) In your own words, describe what it is like when your heart *faints*.
2. What did Jonah say about his *prayer*?
  - a. Using Psalm 18:4,5, describe David's condition.
    - 1.) What did David do *in his distress*? Psalm 18:6
    - 2.) Read and reflect upon Psalm 18:19. What are your thoughts when you consider God's desire to *deliver* you?
    - 3.) In what way(s) was David's distress similar to Jonah's?
      - a.) What can we learn from them?
3. Although Jonah had disobeyed God, Jonah knew that *his prayer went up to Him*. How do you know God hears your prayers? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answers.

4. *Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs* (Jonah 2:8 NIV). What are some examples of the *grace* we *forfeit* when we run to something or someone other than God?
  
5. Jonah 2:9 begins with the contrasting word *but*. Rather than run to *worthless idols*, what two things did Jonah say he would do?
  - a. A *sacrifice* indicates a difficult giving up of something. Its purpose is often to please another. Given that criteria, in what ways is *thanksgiving* a *sacrifice*?
  
  - b. A *vow* is a voluntary promise to give or do something as an expression of consecration or devotion to the service of God. Jonah was in a place of realizing that he had forsaken his commitments to the Lord. He may have committed to surrender his life to the Lord. God's call to Jonah to go to Nineveh may have challenged that commitment. What are your thoughts as you reflect upon this possibility?
    - 1.) In Jonah's case, what do you think he was saying when he said, *I will pay what I have vowed*?

### **JONAH'S DELIVERANCE: Read Jonah 2:10**

1. Thoughtfully record the words of Jonah 2:10, underlining the first three words.
  - a. God responded to Jonah's prayer. What did He do?
    - 1.) Comment on how easy this deliverance was for God to do.
  
2. Read Matthew 8:26. What happened when Jesus spoke to the winds and the sea?
  
3. Reflect upon the "speaking power" of God. What are your thoughts?

## REVIEW: Read Jonah 2

1. After studying Jonah 2, what did you learn about:

*Crying out to the LORD*

Circumstances God puts us in to get our attention

*The sacrifice of thanksgiving*

Payment of *vows*

God's desire and power to deliver

2. Share one lesson from this chapter that you desire to apply to your life.

*For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

*- Psalm 33:9*

## Observation Worksheet

### Jonah 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. <sup>2</sup> And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, and He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice. <sup>3</sup> For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me. <sup>4</sup> Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' <sup>5</sup> The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; weeds were wrapped around my head. <sup>6</sup> I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. <sup>7</sup> "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. <sup>8</sup> "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. <sup>9</sup> But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." <sup>10</sup> So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.