

STUDY NOTES

JONAH

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Depth of God’s Grace” on 11/11/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JONAH 2

INTO THE DEEP

In verse 3, Jonah says that God cast him into the deep because of the storm that Jonah caused with his sin. Yet, in spite of this, Jonah cries out to God from the fish and God hears him. Jonah knew that God doesn’t always “cause” the storm but He always has the power to control and calm the storm. All who cry out to God will be saved.

God will rescue you from the ultimate storm.

- *In your experience, how has God proven faithful to hear you in any circumstance?*
- *Why is it important to understand that God promises to rescue from the ULTIMATE storm?*

HOW DEEP DO YOU HAVE TO GO?

For Jonah, he kept going further and further down—down to Joppa, down into the ship, down into the depths of the ship, and now down to the bottom of the ocean. Jonah was expressing his feeling of being in the deepest part of the ocean, being as

far removed from the world of human habitation as possible. Maybe that’s where you feel you are today. How deep do you have to go before you’ll recognize the grace of God?

No matter how far you think you are from God, He is there.

- *What is your experience with feeling down like Jonah? Did God make Himself known to you? If so, how?*

RECOGNIZING OUR IDOLS

In verse 8, Jonah recognized the tendency for people to turn to idols instead of God. Jonah found his identity in his Hebrewness (hence why he didn’t want to preach to the people of Ninevah). Anyone who finds their core identity in things like money, power, race, religion, etc. is insecure by his or her very nature. Idols don’t give grace. Only God can give grace.

**Idols give grief, not grace.
Idols = Grief. God = Grace. God > Idols.**

- *What do you have a tendency to turn to instead of turning to God?*
- *How does that idol ultimately lead to more grief for you?*

ULTIMATE GRACE

Jonah recognized that he deserved death, not deliverance. He then knew, as we do, that no one deserves deliverance. It is an act of mercy by a gracious God. Salvation only comes from God. Jesus is the God who came down—down from heaven to earth, down to the tomb, down to the pit of Hell to return with the keys of death and Hell in order to release you from it.

Jesus went to the depths of the earth and hell to lift you up.

- *Why is it important to see that Jesus also went down—as far down as one could go—in order for you to receive grace?*
- *Pray with each other to be continually reminded of the depth in which Jesus went for you.*