

Jonah

(week 3 – chapter 3)

1. Think of a time in which you have felt that the situation you were in was completely helpless. What was the outcome?

Intro question to get them in the zone of thinking about being in a helpless situation. It doesn't really matter here what the outcome for them was.

Read Jonah 1:17-2:10

2. What is Jonah's situation and condition as he prays this prayer?

Jonah is within the belly of the great fish and in a desperate condition ('distress', 'life ebbing away' etc). You might like to get the kids to identify the words in verses 1-6a which demonstrate this.

3. In what ways do you think Jonah has experienced salvation? What is it that he has been saved from?

The LORD has provided the fish as a saving act. He has been spared his own drowning death. Essentially we could say that God has saved Jonah from the consequences of turning his back on God and running in the opposite direction.

4. In the book of Jonah the big fish is an act of God's mercy and not a punishment. How does Jonah respond to this act of mercy?

- a. Words – *Identify the words. 'called to the LORD' (v2,3); 'prayer rose to you' (v7) → **thanksgiving***

- b. Actions – *Identify the words. 'I remembered you' (v7); 'prayer rose to you' (v7); 'song of thanksgiving' (v9); 'I will make good' (v9) → **repentance***

Read Romans 5:6-11

5. What is the helpless situation from which we have been saved?

*Saved from the consequence of our sinfulness through Jesus' death and resurrection. You may like to get the kids to think about **why** we are completely unable to get out of this situation on our own, and why Jesus **is** able to achieve this.*

6. What can we learn from this passage and Jonah's experience about:

- a. the way God acts –

It is in God's nature to seek after those who run from him, and to save those who turn to him. It is clear that God hears those who repent and turn their hearts towards him.

- b. responding to God –

We need to respond to what God has done with both thanksgiving and repentance. (This may seem obvious, but how often do we actually do this?)

7. In what ways do the following areas of your life require greater thankfulness and/or repentance: *(A chance to push strongly for serious application)*

a. Priorities –

How often do you read your bible or pray compared to checking your email or Facebook? What kinds of conversations do you have with Christian mates?

b. What you pray for –

Are your prayers characterised by thankfulness, or do you simply present God with a 'shopping list' of requests?

c. Attitude to sharing your faith –

How important is evangelism in your day-to-day life?

d. Attitude to sin –

Do you take seriously the consequences of sin, or do you simply think 'it doesn't matter as I'm already saved by Jesus'?

8. Spend some time writing a prayer of thanksgiving and repentance below.

Pray this prayer regularly over the coming week.

Get them to actually write this out focussing on thanking God for who he is and what he has done for them, as well as outlining how they plan to respond to what they have learnt (ie basically modelled on Jonah's example).