



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The God of Second Chances

Date: May 24, 2026

Scripture Text: Jonah 2

Notes:

Ever been in a situation when you felt you knew exactly what to do, but what you thought was needed wasn't what was needed at all. As a result, you fail miserably. If you had it all to do again, you would do things differently. All you want is a *second chance*. This is similar to our relationship with God. Many of us all too often seek to do something our way, even with noble intentions, but we fail because we didn't include God. In the end we see His way is always the best. We want a second chance, and thankfully we serve a God of second chances! Hallelujah! Today we pick up in our study of the book of Jonah. As we begin, we find Jonah in the belly of a great fish. He has time to consider his situation and his mistakes. He finds himself in need of God's deliverance and desires to have a second chance.

I. The Desperation of Jonah (Jonah 2:1-3, 5-6a)

In [Jonah 1](#), God had called Jonah to go to Ninevah with a message of condemnation. They were a cruel, wicked people, who's evil deeds had not gone unnoticed by God. But instead of going to Ninevah, Jonah went the opposite way. Enroute, while on a ship, God sent a great wind that rocked the boat. The sailors thought they would perish. Jonah knew the dangerous situation was because of him and told the sailors to throw him overboard. Once they did, the wind ceased and the sea became calm. Jonah, upon being through into the water was swallowed by a great fish that God had sent.

- From the belly of the great fish, Jonah calls out to God. In vv. [1-3](#), [5-6a](#), what are words that describe Jonah's situation and his desperation?
- Jonah makes the statement that God had thrown him into the sea (an action done by the sailors on the ship), and the battering he took from "Your breakers and billows". Jonah wasn't blaming God but recognizing this was sent by God for his benefit. How was the situation God placed Jonah in of benefit for him?
- What was Jonah's perspective of where God was?
- Jonah knew that regardless of how dire his circumstances may be, God would not leave him nor forsake him. How might that be a comfort to Jonah to know that regardless of his circumstances, God was there?
- How can God's presence be a comfort for us, even when we may be the cause of our situation?
- Describe a time you called out to God for deliverance. What happened?



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

II. The Decision of Jonah (Jonah 2:2, 4-9)

When the storms of life come our way, it is not uncommon to be drawn to God, seeking His presence and help as we pass through these storms. Jonah had hit rock bottom. God had put him in a situation where he needed to call out to Him or perish. God can use the storms of life to do the same for us. In life's darkest times can be opportunities to draw near to God, experience Him firsthand, and see how He is indeed with us and will never forsake us.

- In [v. 4](#) Jonah expresses concern that in his effort to run from God, he had indeed been cut off from God. This realization prompted Jonah to renew His commitment to God (“I will look again toward Your holy temple”, “I will sacrifice to You”, “that which I have vowed I will pay”). How can God use our circumstance to get our attention, seeking a renewed commitment to Him?
- When we face life's challenges, our fault or not, what are things we may turn to rather than turning to God?
- Jonah's tone of his prayer shifts from desperation in a dire situation to hope as he “remembered the Lord” ([v. 7](#)). How can a focus on God rather than our circumstances bring hope ([Ps. 71:14](#))?
- Jonah states he will offer sacrifices to God with *thanksgiving* ([v. 9](#)). [Phil 4:6](#) states: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with *thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God.” How can having a thankful heart, regardless of our circumstances, help us endure life's storms?

III. The Deliverance of Jonah (Jonah 2:10)

Jonah humbled himself, submitted to God and His authority, after which he was very unceremoniously returned to land when the fish vomited him up.

- After trying to run from God, Jonah repents of his sin, and God gives him a second chance to do what He had called him to do. Why is repentance important when it comes to being available for God to use?
- [Jonah 3](#) will describe Jonah's response of obedience after God gave him a second chance. Why are acts of obedience important when God gives us a second chance?
- You've heard the phrase; “learning from your mistakes”. What was the mistake Jonah learned from?
- What is a mistake (sin) you've learned from?
- When God gives us second chances, why is it important to learn from our mistakes and realize God's way is the best way?