

# GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

## Jonah... the belly

(part III of the 'Jonah' series – 6/03/12)

### Big Idea...

In chapter 2, Jonah moves from a theological understanding of God to an experiential knowledge of Him. As he sits in the belly of a great fish, he learns that God is present everywhere at all times, there's no escaping the presence of God. Jonah experiences afresh that God genuinely cares about him (and us). Despite running and being in a fish, Jonah also recognizes and confesses that God is in complete control of his life. Finally, in his prayer and crying out to God, Jonah reminds us that God is a God who is worthy to be worshiped and that salvation comes from God alone!

### Discussion Questions...

1. In Jonah we see a God who is ever present, even when we try to run away from Him. What would your life look like if you believed that God was present with you always? How might being aware of His presence lead to greater obedience and quicker repentance? How might being aware of His presence transform the conversations we have with people throughout the day? Are there things that you could do in order to cultivate a greater sense of His presence with you through-out your day?
2. Do you believe God cares about you, or do you think He just loves you because He has to? What hinders you from actually believing and experiencing God's love/care for you? Consider [Jonah 2:8](#) – *“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”* Are there idols in your life that are hindering you from experiencing the grace (care) of God in your life?
3. Why is it so difficult to practically and experientially believe that God is in complete control of our lives? Is there anything happening right now in your life that makes you wonder or struggle to believe that God is actually in control? As you look back, are there times where you can now see how the Sovereignty of God was at work despite you not knowing what God was doing at the time?
4. It took Jonah being trapped in the belly of a great fish before he turned to God in prayer. In many ways, Jonah's prayer was an expression of what he believed about God. What might your prayer sound like? Take some time this week to find a place of quietness and stillness and write out a prayer to God. Consider sharing that prayer with your Community Group the following week.

### Announcements...

- **the Well** – join others from the GENESIS Community this **Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** for a powerful time of worship & prayer. The Well begins at 8PM and ends by 9:30PM – plan on going out afterwards to grab a late night snack.
- **Testimonies** – on [Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>](#) during the GENESIS Worship gatherings, you will have the opportunity to share your testimony of 'This is our God.' Be praying as to what God would have you share at this gathering. It will be a powerful time of celebrating together as a community who God is an what He is doing in our lives and the life of our community. Any questions, please contact the Elders at [elders@genesisthejourney.com](mailto:elders@genesisthejourney.com).
- **SERVE** – a great way to connect w/others within the GENESIS Community is through serving. There are many opportunities to serve within GENESIS, whether that be through worship, the creative team, GENESIS Kids or GENESIS Youth, Community Outreach, Connections or the Facilities Team. As GENESIS continues to grow, so to do the needs within the community. Learn more about serving via the GENESIS Website {[www.genesisthejourney.com/serve](http://www.genesisthejourney.com/serve)}, or contact our lead deacon Jon Bandi at [Jon.Bandi@genesisthejourney.com](mailto:Jon.Bandi@genesisthejourney.com).

sunday worship gathering at 9am & 11AM [www.genesisthejourney.com](http://www.genesisthejourney.com)