Character Study: Jonah
Part 2 – Jonah's Heart Change
Jonah 2:1-10

What's happening?

● *While running from the Lord, Jonah found himself in the belly of a fish. He had avoided God's calling to go to Nineveh, but now God had him in a place where He had his full attention.*

● *Jonah spoke to the Lord from within the fish. Notice the flow of Jonah's prayer as it displays his change of heart:*

➢ *He <u>cried</u> out to the Lord (2:1-2).*

➢ *He recognized the Lord's <u>hand</u> in his turmoil (2:3).*

➢ *He turned his <u>heart</u> back to the Lord (2:4).*

➢ *He realized the Lord's <u>protection</u> on his life (2:5-6).*

➢ *He acknowledged the Lord's <u>superiority</u> (2:7-8).*

➢ *He committed to <u>following</u> the Lord's will (2:9a).*

➢ *He thanked the Lord for His <u>salvation</u> (2:9b).*

● *With the purpose of the fish complete, the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out upon dry land. (2:10)*

What's God doing?

> *God answered Jonah's cry. When Jonah was in distress, the <u>Lord</u> <u>was</u> <u>there</u>. God had to take Jonah to depths he never dreamed of in order to truly get his <u>attention</u>. But despite Jonah's rebellion, God was <u>gracious</u> and <u>merciful</u>, and He delivered Jonah.*

What's to learn?

→ *God used difficult <u>circumstances</u> to get Jonah's attention. God does not find pleasure in causing anyone grief, but He knows what it takes to get people's attention. Has God ever used difficult circumstances to get your attention? We can be grateful that He <u>cares</u> for us enough to do what it takes to draw us back to Himself!*

→ *Jonah's prayer is characterized by a <u>confidence</u> that God would deliver him, even though at the time of the prayer he was still in the fish! This has a lot to say about the <u>hope</u> that comes through knowing God!*

→ *Through this ordeal, Jonah learned about God's <u>mercy</u> and the importance of being <u>loyal</u> to God. He also learned to appreciate God's <u>faithfulness</u>. What situations in your life have taught you the same?*