

**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 cried out to the Lord (2:1-2).
  - He recognized the Lord’s hand in his turmoil (2:3).
  - He turned his heart back to the Lord (2:4).
  - He realized the Lord’s protection on his life (2:5-6).
  - He acknowledged the Lord’s superiority (2:7-8).
  - He committed to following the Lord’s will (2:9a).
  - He thanked the Lord for His salvation (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 Lord was there. God had to take Jonah to depths he never dreamed of in order to truly get his attention. But despite Jonah’s rebellion, God was gracious and merciful, and He delivered Jonah.

**What’s to learn?**

- God used difficult circumstances 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 cares for us enough to do what it takes to draw us back to Himself!
- Jonah’s prayer is characterized by a confidence 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 hope that comes through knowing God!
- Through this ordeal, Jonah learned about God’s mercy and the importance of being loyal to God. He also learned to appreciate God’s faithfulness. What situations in your life have taught you the same?

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