

THE GREAT FISH June 28, 2020

Read Jonah 1:15-2:10 (if you don't have a bible, use the next page)

God had chosen Jonah to do a special ministry for the people in Nineveh. God wanted Jonah to travel there and tell them all about God. But Jonah did not want to do that. Jonah decided to dis-obey God. Just think about that for a second.

Jonah loved God. He knew God knew best and never asked you to do anything that was bad. But what God asked Jonah to do, Jonah felt it was too hard. Jonah did not remember that God is always with him and would help him to do what God asked him to do.

So when Jonah ran away, and the boat he was on was ready to capsize, the sailors threw him overboard. Jonah had a robe, a coat and heavy leather sandals on. He sank, very fast. He thought he would drown as the seaweed surrounded him. But then, a whale swallowed Jonah.

Just imagine a really big car, like a van. That is how big a whale's stomach is. And whales eat seaweed, fish and small crustaceans (like shrimp). And all this stuff is in the whale's stomach along with salt water. Just imagine how bad it smells - PEE-EW!!!! Jonah had no food, no water to drink and it was very dark. He was sloshing around in the whale's belly where it really smelled bad. There was no dry place for him to sit or lay down to sleep. He did not know what would happen next. And what do you think Jonah did?

He gave THANKS to God that he was not dead. Jonah 2:9 *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving;*

God did rescue Jonah after 3 days and the whale spat him out. Jonah then went to Nineveh to tell the people about God and His love and mercy. This was a very drastic way to learn a lesson. But Jonah was grateful to God throughout. Are you grateful for everything God does for you, good and bad?

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you ever not want to do what God wants?
2. How do you think God feels when you dis-obey Him?
3. What can you do when you feel like you don't want to obey God?
4. The next time something 'bad' happens, remember to give thanks to God

JONAH 1:15-2:9

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, into the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all they billows and they waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of they sight; yet I will look again toward they holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever; yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.