

**THE GREAT ESCAPE
JONAH 2
JULY 12, 2009 SUNDAY AM**

INTRODUCTION

- A. A little girl got home from Sunday School and asked her mother what the song “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine” meant. Her mother explained to her that it meant to let others see Jesus in her actions. The next week the little girl got into trouble in Sunday School. When her mother found out about it she asked her why she didn’t let her light shine. The little girl replied, “I blowed myself out!”
- B. Have you ever “blowed yourself out?”
- C. Jonah did.
 - 1. How do you light that fire again?
 - 2. How do you get back to God after you have drifted away?
 - 3. Let’s see how Jonah got back to God and how we can too.

I. THE FIRST STEP TO GETTING BACK TO GOD IS TO REALIZE YOU’VE BEEN SWALLOWED BY A BIG FISH!

- A. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish—1:17.

¹⁷ But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

 - 1. The purpose of this fish wasn’t to punish Jonah, but to rescue him.
 - 2. Have you ever needed rescuing?
- B. What kind of fish was it? A whale or something else?
 - 1. No one knows for sure.
 - 2. Hebrew word means “big fish”.
 - 3. The kind of fish doesn’t matter as much as what Jonah did next.
 - 4. God uses all kinds—financial, health, relationships, etc.

- C. God didn't want to kill Jonah, otherwise, he would have sent a shark! Neither does he want to kill or punish us.
- D. God sent the fish into Jonah's life to accomplish two things.
 1. First, to let Jonah know he made a big mistake in disobeying God. Any time we disobey God we are making a big mistake.
 2. Second, to let Jonah know that he wasn't through with him yet. And God isn't through with you either.

II. THE SECOND STEP TO GETTING BACK TO GOD INVOLVES THREE LITTLE STEPS.

- A. First, we must realize we need to get back to God—**2:4**

⁴ I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

- B. Second, we need to rejoice in God's deliverance before it happens—**2:6**.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God.

Jonah rejoiced in God's deliverance before God did it—**2:10**.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

- C. Third, we need to renew our commitment to God—**2:9**.

⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD."

Have you made any vows to God that you need to keep?

CONCLUSION

- A. Like the little girl, have we blown our light out?
- B. Have we been swallowed by a big fish of our own?
- C. Do what Jonah did.
 1. Realize you need to get back to God.
 2. Rejoice in God's deliverance even before it happens.
 3. Renew your commitments to God.

