

The 12: Jonah - Two
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Salvation is not about the worthiness of our faith. It is about the mercy of our savior.

Read and discuss Jonah 2:1-9(NIV)

¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³ You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴ I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' ⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me;

seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

⁷ "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

⁸ "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them.

⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"

*What does this prayer say about God? About Jonah?

*Do you see a part of yourself in Jonah's repentance?

God responds to small turns towards him with abundant mercy

Read and discuss Jonah 3:5-10(NIV)

⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

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

*What do you see in the contrast of the Ninevite's and Jonah's repentance?

*What does it mean to have hope in the compassion and mercy of God?

*Where do you see yourself or the church forgetting or taking this compassion for granted?

We are not the people of God because we are special, but because He is merciful

Mercy is giving people what they don't deserve, in the way God gives us what we don't deserve.

*What can happen when we begin to believe we are different than others needing mercy?

*What is the difference between compassion and sentimentality?

*What undeserving person is God calling you to let his mercy flow through you to?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Jonah](#) by Vladimir Zagitov

Song for reflection [Mercy's Shore](#) by NEEDTOBREATHE