

## Small Group Discussion Guide — Read Jonah 2:1-10

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- What did you find unique, new, or interesting about Jonah's prayer here in chapter 2?
- What are some of the things that Jonah learns about God? Where do we see these in his prayer?
- Why is it that when we are running from God, or we have fallen into sin, we are often reluctant to cry out to God? What does this say about what we think of ourselves? What does this say about what we think of God?
- How can knowing that God is sovereign even over the calamities and distresses of life provide a "rock-solid" foundation under our feet? Where are you doubting this to be true in your own life right now?
- How is Jonah's physical salvation in chapter 2 similar to our spiritual salvation in Christ? According to Matthew 12:41, how is something greater than Jonah now here in Jesus?
- What do we learn about Jonah in this prayer? What "character defects" do we see in Jonah's prayer? What do they reveal about his own heart and his own understanding of God's mercy?
- Read Luke 18:9-14. How is Jonah's prayer similar to the Pharisee's prayer in vs. 11? What do both Jonah and the Pharisee assume about God's mercy? How is Jonah's prayer different from the tax collector's prayer in vs. 18?
- How might I be able to tell if I am applying God's mercy selectively and discriminately like Jonah? Who are the sailors and Ninevites in my eyes?
- Discuss Sinclair Ferguson's quote: *"How perverse Jonah was! Living in a favored nation where spiritual light had shone only because of the great mercy of God, he had come to assume that Israel deserved grace, whereas others had ill-deserved it. What a perversion! Yet it likes like a hidden poison in the hearts of some of us who most fervently profess evangelical convictions. It is an unwritten rule in our hearts—others do not deserve the gospel, so why should we exhaust our lives taking it to them? Alas, when we think like that we show how little we know of our own need...how little we really know of the grace of God!"*
- How can we as a group grow in displaying mercy to one another and to the lost around us?