

Relate Group Questions

June 2, 2019

Ice Breaker Question:

What was your favorite hiding place as a child? How long could you stay there before you started feeling claustrophobic?

Relate Group Value: Safety – Guarding honest, open relationships with an agreement of safety – that what is said in the group will remain confidential, that opinions will be respected and differences will be allowed.

Sermon Series: God Cares

Sermon Title: It's Time to Pray!

Sermon Text: Jonah 1:17-2:10

Other Relevant Scriptures: Psalm 30:2-3; Job 33:22-30; Matthew 12:39-40

1. When do you most realize your need to pray? Are you more inclined to pray when all is well or when you're in a bad situation?
2. What do you see in this prayer: A psalm of thanksgiving? A call for help? Recommitment? Other? Why?
3. What do you make of the fact that Jonah prays "from the belly of the fish" (v.1) and uses verbs in the past tense, as though God had already answered prayer?
4. While Jonah may be safe for the moment, how is he still in deep trouble?
5. Where does he show assurance of deliverance in spite of appearances to the contrary (vv. 4, 6-7,9)?
6. Compare v.3 with 1:15: How does Jonah view circumstances? God's control? God's purposes?
7. When have you felt like Jonah – far from God, enmeshed in circumstances beyond your control? How was your life "brought up from the pit"?
8. Where in your life are you desperate enough to pray with hope, as Jonah does?

Weekly Check-up:

How is your daily Bible reading going?

How has your prayer life been this past week?

Are you struggling in your obedience to God?

In what ways are you serving in our church?

Are you consistently giving to support the mission of our church?

Have you shared Jesus with anyone this past week?

Have you invited anyone to worship or small group?

What do you need prayer and encouragement for today?