

CONNECT Group study questions for May 12, 2019

Title: “The Crisis of Decision”

1. In verse 17 of Jonah 1, we see that God did something radical to bring Jonah to a place of brokenness. Depending on which Bible translation you read, we are told that God prepared, provided, or arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. Each of these words point to an intentional, thoughtful decision on the part of God.

- What sort of considerations do you think God had when preparing, providing, or arranging the fish?

- Think back to a time in your own life when God did something radical to bring about brokenness in your life. Can you see how God prepared, provided, or arranged the situation to help you face your sin?

2. This week we take another look at the paths to obedience. In describing what it is like to choose the path of disobedience, as Jonah did, Peppy referenced an illustration from an Oswald Chambers. In his devotional Chambers wrote, “God can never make us into wine if we object to the fingers He chooses to use to crush us . . . If we are ever going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed—you cannot drink grapes. Grapes become wine only when they have been squeezed.”

- For Jonah, God “squeezed” him in the belly of the fish. What does God regularly use to squeeze you?

- Why is this often difficult for us to recognize and accept the world of God in our lives?

3. Five aspects to Jonah’s prayer of brokenness:

1. Jonah cries out to God for help. (2:2)
2. Jonah confesses that God has sovereignly put him where he is. (v. 3,4)
3. Jonah recognizes that he is about to die in the great fish. (v. 5-6)
4. Jonah remembers that the Lord is His only hope. (v. 7,8)
5. Jonah vows to serve the LORD. (v.9)

Take a moment to read silently through Jonah’s prayer of brokenness in chapter 2. As you read, reflect on your answers to the previous questions. Be intentional and talk to God about your answers as you move through each piece of Jonah’s prayer.