



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 17

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Hey gang! Welcome back to small group, we are SO glad you are here tonight. Let's do a quick check-in and find out what everyone's Highs and Lows are- your highlight and lowlight from the past week.

BIBLE VERSES

Jonah chapter 2

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

We are in week 2 of our study of the book of Jonah. This week we are going to tackle chapter 2 together, but let's recap what happened last week in chapter 1. Jonah was asked by God to go to the Ninevites and demand that they repent, change their behavior and worship God. Jonah did NOT want to do that, so he ran away. He got on a ship headed in the opposite direction. While he was on the ship, a terrible storm came and the sailors threw Jonah overboard in order to get the storm to stop. It did stop and the sailors worshiped God. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and he was inside the fish for 3 days and 3 nights.

Read together Jonah chapter 2:

1. Jonah was inside that fish for 3 days and 3 nights, but only one thing he did inside that fish is recorded in the Bible. What was that one thing?
2. Do you think it's easier to pray to God when you are in a serious crisis, or when things are going just fine in your life? Why?
3. Is Jonah honest with God in this prayer? What things does he say that indicate he is NOT happy that he is inside that fish? (hint: see vs. 3-4,6)
4. Do you think it's ok to be honest with God when you are struggling? What kinds of things could you say to God if you were hurting, lonely or afraid?
5. Jonah also says some nice things about God in this prayer- what kinds of things does he say to worship God while he inside the fish? (Hint: see vs. 2,6,9)
6. What characteristics of God are important to cling to when we are going through something difficult? (Make a list)
7. What happens to Jonah after he prays this prayer?

Next week we'll read what happened to Jonah after he landed on the beach. Can't wait!

LEADER INSIGHT

Leaders- prayer is such a tricky thing to teach to students, especially honest, open prayers that build their relationship with God. This prayer in chapter 2 is a GREAT example for them to learn from -take the time to dissect it and connect what Jonah prayed to what we can all pray when we are hurting or in crisis.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Remind the students that God is always the same -that his good characteristics are 100% true whether we are on dry ground or in the belly of a fish! And encourage students to try to have honest, open conversations with God at home this week.