

Study Guide for September 2nd, 2001 Jonah: Message #3 Desperate Cries - Jonah Chapter 2

1. Recall: When have you been driven to prayer by difficult circumstances? Did you pray less after the difficulty had passed? As you look back on such times, what can you learn about prayer and the value of being in a state of continual dependence upon God?
  
2. Location of the Prayer:
  - A. Where is Jonah when he offers the prayer recorded in Chapter 2?
  - B. Read through Chapter 2 again. What perspective do you gain by realizing his location?
  - C. What reaction would you think Jonah had when he found himself on dry ground (vs. 10)?
  
3. Form of the Prayer: The prayer of Jonah fits into the form of thanksgiving for personal deliverance.
  - A. The Elements of Thanksgiving:
    - 1). Introduction (vs. 2): What quality of the Lord does Jonah highlight as he begins his prayer?
    - 2). Cry of Distress (vs. 3-6a): How does Jonah express the desperate condition he is in?
    - 3). Statement of Deliverance (vs. 6b - 7): What does Jonah credit the Lord as doing?
    - 4). Vow of Commitment (vs. 8-9): What conclusions does Jonah make about . . .
      - a). Idols?
      - b). His response to the Lord?
      - c). The Lord?
  - B. Think back to a time you sensed God's deliverance. Using the same four elements listed above, write a prayer of thanks to express your gratitude to God. Complete the sentences below.
    - 1). Introduction: (Highlight an aspect of God's character you are depending upon.)  
"O Lord, you are . . .
    - 2). Cry of Distress: (Find terms to describe the difficult circumstances you were facing.)  
"I was . . .
    - 3). Statement of Deliverance: (How did God come through and answer prayer for you?)  
"But You, Lord, . . .
    - 4). Vow of Commitment: (Renew your commitment to follow God in light of his deliverance.)  
"I will . . .