

HIT THE GROUND

RUNNING

The Amazing Nature of God's Grace

Discussion Guide

January 13, 2019

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Questions for Study

** Before you begin, please read Jonah 1:17-2:10 as a group.

1. Describe a time when you did something wrong and were expecting condemnation / judgment, but you received grace instead. Did this have any lasting impact on your life?
2. Spend a few minutes reviewing the state of Jonah's heart / his attitude in Jonah Chapter 1. How is Jonah 1:17 an example of God's grace pursuing us, even when we're at our worst?
3. Have you ever questioned whether God's grace is big enough to cover something bad you've done – when you've been at your worst? Read the following verses, then discuss how the Bible teaches us to respond to this sort of "Can God still love me if I've done *that*?" question. Read: Romans 5:6-8; ; Romans 8:37-39; 1 Timothy 1:15-16.
4. How does this passage in Jonah show us that God's saving work doesn't always happen in precisely the way we'd expect?
5. Share an example from your own life (or the life of someone you know) about how God used difficult circumstances to get your attention, shape your character, or prepare you for what was to come.
6. How can knowing that "God's saving work doesn't always happen the way we'd expect" prepare you to handle trials in the future? (See also Romans 5:1-4; James 1:2-3.)
7. Through his prayer inside the fish, we also see that God's grace has changed Jonah in deep ways. Look especially at Jonah 2:8-9. What are some of these deep, fundamental ways Jonah has changed?
8. Explain this statement: "God's grace should not be seen as an excuse for sin; rather, God's grace should change our hearts and give us a new (and better!) motive for obedience." Does this line up with how you've understood God's grace in the past? Explain.
9. Read Titus 2:11-12. How does this verse reinforce the truth that God's grace is designed to have a transformative influence in our lives?
10. Can you point to ways (don't forget the small ways) the truth of God's grace has changed or is changing you from the inside out? Share anything that comes to mind. (If it's helpful, think of it this way: How is your life different because you've experienced God's grace?)
11. A popular Christian song is "Amazing Grace." From what you've learned in Jonah 1:17-2:10, identify something specific about God's grace that you find "amazing" in a fresh way. How can this aspect of God's grace breathe fresh life into your worship and obedience?
12. What have you learned from Jonah 1:17-2:10 that can help you "hit the ground running" in 2019? What practical steps will you take in light of this?
13. **Challenge: Memorize Titus 2:11-12:** ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...