



Jonah Chapter Two: Resources for Families

Jonah has just been swallowed by a whale. From the outside, this looks like the worst possible thing that could happen to Jonah. It looks like the end. But God will use this disaster to turn Jonah's heart back to him. Sitting in the belly of the whale, Jonah realized that God sent the storm and the whale to save Jonah, because God loves Jonah. When Jonah realizes that, he gives a long prayer of repentance.

This week, talk to your children about the concept of repentance. To help your child understand this idea, use the following analogy:

Imagine you are trying to walk somewhere. (Maybe the park!) As you are walking, your Dad says, "Hey, that's the wrong way to the park!" What should you do? (Turn around and head in the right way!) That's what repentance is. It means, recognizing that we are going the wrong way—away from God. We need to change our direction. When we repent, we say to God, "God, I'm sorry! I have been walking away from you. Help me to come back to you. I need your help!"

Discussion Questions

1. Even Jonah's worst mistake can't separate Jonah from God's love. What does that mean for you when you make mistakes?
2. Is there anything happening in your life right now that means you might need to repent?

Further Reading

This week, read about the life of John Newton, the pastor who wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace." John Newton had been the captain of a slave ship when one day, his ship was caught in a huge storm. In the midst of the storm, Newton called out to God to rescue him. The storm stopped and Newton decided to dedicate his life to Christ. He quit buying and selling slaves, became a pastor, and worked to try to end slavery in England.

You can read more about Newton's life [here](https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/john-newton-gods-amazing-grace-11635046.html): <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/john-newton-gods-amazing-grace-11635046.html>



A great whale swallowed Jonah.

