



I Hate This City Part 2 - Pray

BREAKING THE ICE:

How do you think the average Christian views prayer? As a religious duty, a daily discipline, a way to vent to God, etc. Explain

Do you ever doubt that your prayers make a difference? Why or why not

GO TO THE SOURCE: Read Jonah 1:17-2:9, Heb. 12:2

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

Jonah's setting

- What does God do for/to Jonah while he is bobbing in the ocean?
- How does the fact that God preserved Jonah's life in a fish for 3 days impact how you think of His power?

Prayer of Confession

- What does Jonah do in verse 2-3?
 - LEADERS NOTE: Jonah acknowledges that what has happened to him is the discipline of the Lord.

- Have you ever recognized that things went wrong in your life because you were in rebellion against God? Explain
- What does he do in verse 4?
 - LEADERS NOTE: His words about being banished and then looking again is picturesque of repentance. Instead of turning and running from the Lord he is talking about turning his face back to the Lord.
- Do you need to repent for rejecting God's call on you to reach your neighbor/coworker/family member for Christ?
- If you struggle to share with unbelievers what is the main struggle for you? Fear of rejection? Lack of hope that it will do any good? Something else?

Prayer of Acknowledgment

- Who does Jonah say salvation comes from?
- Go to Acts 16:14, What does it mean that God opened Lydia's heart?
- Pastor Omar shared in his message this week how there is human responsibility involved in responding to the gospel but also a sense in which God intervenes to make the salvation possible. How would you respond to that view?
- How does the fact that salvation depends on God influence how you evangelize?
 - LEADERS NOTE: The fact that God is the author of salvation should motivate our evangelism because the number 1 way that God saves people is through us sharing the gospel. And the fact that God is going to prepare them to receive the word should encourage us all the more because we know He has prepared the way.

Prayer of Commitment

- What does Jonah commit himself to in verse 9?
 - LEADERS NOTE: He will declare that salvation is of the Lord, he will give thanks, and make sacrifices.

MAKE IT COUNT:

- Who does God want you to commit yourself to this week to share your faith?

- What are some ways you can do that?