Pastor Dave Teixeira
Jonah 1:17-2:10
July 11, 2010

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Right away in **verse 17** we read that "*the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah".*
That word, "provided," is a governing word that means appointed or commissioned. This means that the fish was under direct orders from God.

- Do you ever think about the hardest, scariest, most painful, difficult things you go through in life as being "provided" or appointed or commissioned by God? How does that strike you? Have you ever experienced that in life in any way?

And this is no ordinary fish. This is a "great" fish. And once again we see that God is teaching Jonah who is truly great.

- How great is your God? No really. How important, powerful, mighty, sovereign, able, "ginormous" is your God? Lets do something cheesy. Think of something that is worrying, overwhelming, stressing you out right now. Make this statement out loud (or if it's too personal really loudly in your head) – The Lord is greater than _____! Say it 5x's. It's true!

Throughout this story Jonah has been going down. Down to Joppa, down below deck, down into the water. But finally he goes as deep as Jewish word pictures can physically take you, "*into the deep, into the very heart of the seas.*" But at the very bottom Jonah finds God. And then he prays. This is when things start to turn around for Jonah. When he prays. When he finally surrenders to God.

- What needs prayer in your life right now? What do you need to call to the LORD about? Do it. Right now. Don't talk about doing it, do it. Stop right now, pull over, pause the movie, call timeout in the game, halt the discussion, and PRAY! Call out to God. Remember God.

- What is it about prayer that redirects us and gets us on the right path?

Jonah concludes his prayer with a statement, a realization. "*Salvation comes from the LORD.*" There is a realization that Jonah desperately needs God's grace. And the implication is that the Ninevites deserve the same grace God has afforded Jonah. This is something that we as Christ-followers must always remember.

- Who in your life do you have a hard time extending grace to?

Finally, Jonah is "vomited" onto the land and there is a wonderful image here. Jonah is gross. He's hideous, disgusting, repulsive…and yet God still wants to use him. Wow! I can't tell you what a wonderful truth that is for me. God wants to use me even though I can be an enormous stinker.

- No question here, just an encouragement, challenge, truth that I want you to ponder.