

Seeing God's Provision

2024-04-22 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jonah 1:17

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Read that again: provided. Nobody sinking in a storm calls a fish a rescue. Pastor Matt's point is that God's provision is easy to spot when life is good and nearly invisible when it is not. God could have sent a boat. He sent what would actually work. And here is the flip side: the person God has provided to solve somebody else's problem is usually you.

To get started

- What in your life turned out to be a gift that did not look like one at the time?

Looking back at the message

The fish was dark, cramped, and awful, and it was still the rescue. Do not soften that.

- 1 Pastor Matt described the inside of that fish: dark, cramped, and awful, and still the rescue. Why does it matter that God's provision was not pretty?
- 2 Pastor Matt said provision is easy to see when life is going well, and hard times can blind us to what God is doing right in front of us. Where is that happening for you?
- 3 Pastor Matt said becoming a dad taught him things about God's heart he had understood but never felt. What has done that for you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Jonah 1:17. One verse, and the word provided is the same one used for the storm and later the worm.

- 4 Read Jonah 1:17. Who sends the fish, and why does the word provided matter?
- 5 The same word gets used for the storm and later for a worm. What does that tell you about what counts as provision?
- 6 Read Genesis 22:13-14. What name does Abraham give that place, and why?
- 7 Read Romans 5:3-5. What chain does Paul describe, and where does it end? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The second half is the sharper half: you are somebody else's provision.

- 8 Pastor Matt flipped the sermon at the end: you are God's provision for someone else's problem. Who has God put you next to?
- 9 Where are you asking God for a boat when he may have already sent a fish?
- 10 What hard thing in your life right now might be provision instead of punishment?
- 11 Who has been provision for you that you never thanked? OPTIONAL

The group together

God provided for Jonah in the middle of his disobedience. That is the grace in this passage.

- 12 God provided for Jonah while Jonah was actively running from him. What does that tell you about grace?
- 13 Who in this group is in a hard place the group could be provision for?
- 14 How do you tell a hard thing that is provision from a hard thing that just needs to change?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Who are you meant to be the provision for this week?

You might pray about

- For eyes to see provision that does not look like it
- For people in a dark and cramped season right now
- For willingness to be someone else's answer