

# faith guide: a second chance

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1: 17.

Sitting in the belly of the whale, Jonah prayed, "Please God, give me a second chance."

Like Jonah, we sometimes find ourselves in need of a second chance.

## I. We Need A Second Chance When:

### A. We have shirked our responsibilities. Jonah 1:2-3.

1. Jonah was guilty of knowing what to do, but refusing to do it.
2. He wanted an escape from the work, even though he knew no one else could do it.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION** Think back to a time in your life when you may not have not done your best work or followed through with a good idea—even knowing it could help others. Given a second chance, how would you handle the same situation?

### B. We do not pay attention when people are in danger. Jonah 1:5-6.

1. Jonah slept through a fierce storm.
2. He was both physically and spiritually asleep.

### C. We endanger other people's lives by our own foolishness. Jonah 1:11.

1. When we act irresponsibly, we often bring others down with us.
2. If we act foolishly, someone weaker could be watching. Their life might be forever changed for the worst.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION** Too often, we are unaware of the power of example and forget that our actions may have a negative effect on others. Think about changes you would make, knowing you have a second chance to be an example to others who may be watching.

## II. We Get A Second Chance When:

- A. We realize we have made a mistake and admit it. Jonah 1:11-12.
  - 1. King David also made a mistake. He too received a second chance after he confessed his transgressions.  
“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” (PSA 32:5)
  - 2. The reason so many never seem to get a second chance is because they do not admit they need one.
  
- B. We pray and repent. Jonah 2:1-2, 7.
  - 1. We put ourselves in the place of getting a second chance when we pour our hearts out to God.
  - 2. He already knows the truth; he wants us to confess our mistakes.

PERSONAL REFLECTION For most of us, the truth will set us free. Telling yourself the truth is the first step in creating a second chance opportunity. Why is it important to honestly describe your current situation before moving on to your next goal?

## III. What Happens When We Get That Second Chance?

- A. People will receive the much needed good news.
  
- B. God's method has not changed. Jonah 2:2.
  - 1. He still calls on us to be messengers.
  - 2. He still expects us to live out his Word.
  
- C. Will we take advantage of the second chances we are receiving.

The Bible says when we cry out, “Please God, give me a second chance,” it will be granted.