

SERIES TITLE: **CASTAWAY**

PART TWO: **PENALTY BOXES**

TEXT: **JONAH 2**

**INTRODUCTION.**

This is a study of the prophet Jonah, and his emotional argument with God. The story begins with Jonah refusing God's mission, and ends with Jonah's regret over the mission's success. These four chapters illustrate the power and mercy of God in spite of human weaknesses and reactions.

**DISCUSSION.**

- What was the most confining experience in your life so far? (for example: being in a cast, stuck in an elevator, bedridden, stalled car, jail)

**EXAMINATION.**

V.1 There's no record that Jonah prayed prior to this, even though asked to (1:6). What does that tell us about Jonah?

Vv.2-9 Jonah makes heavy use of the Psalms in his prayer. Some feel this makes his prayer artificial or a later fabrication. How is it possible to pray Scripture in a situation of genuine need?

- Is there anything about the prayer that surprises or intrigues you?
- How is God's purpose demonstrated in the following:
  - 1) Jonah's change in perspective, vv.2, 4, 7.
  - 2) Jonah saved from drowning, vv.3, 5-6.
  - 3) Jonah's willingness to honor God, vv.8-10.
- How do the following situations compare or contrast with Jonah's experience?
  - Moses—Exodus 2:15-22
  - Joseph—Genesis 39:19-23
  - David—1 Samuel 21:10-22:1

**APPLICATION.**

- Can you share a “penalty box” experience from your own life?
- Which of the three purposes best applied to your situation?
- Why does God seem to wait until we get to the bottom or to the end of ourselves before he intervenes?
- How is it possible to waste a “penalty box” experience?
- Where in your life are you desperate enough to pray with hope?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?