

May 14, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Nearness to God is our conscious security. A child in the dark is comforted by grasping its father's hand. Charles Haddon Spurgeon

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Whatever comes my way, please come near to me, Lord, to help. I cannot make it through anything without You. Thank You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress
(Ps 71:3 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 11, 2016)

Series: The Love of God

UNIT: The Extent of God's Love

NEXT WEEK

God's Love for the Lost

(Jonah 3:1-10)

God's Protective Love Jonah 2:1-10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson helps us understand that **God's Protective Love** protects both physically and spiritually. The **study's aim** is to recognize that God's love leads Him to protect us while He disciplines us. The **study's application** is to utilize God's means of protection from spiritual dangers.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Jonah was in an awkward situation! He was trapped in the belly of a fish, not knowing how long he would be in it or what would happen if he got out. He did not know where the fish was going. He did know that he was somewhere deep within the sea. He also knew that he had brought this on himself. When he ran from his mission, he chose to rebel against God's revealed will. Ending up in a fish was the result of a disobedient decision that set him on a crash course toward disaster. At this point, most people would have been tempted to throw up their hands in despair. After all, Jonah was trapped in the sea. He was too far away from shore to swim back. Besides, he did not know where he would land if he made it to shore. It would have been easy to get angry and just give up. At first glance, it looked as though God had completely abandoned the hapless prophet. However, nothing was further from the truth. The reality is that God, despite what happens, never stops protecting His people. There were so many things that could have occurred. Jonah could have drowned, or the sailors could have chosen to take a knife and kill him on the spot. Instead, God brought a fish to swallow Jonah. Inside, Jonah was kept safe. He was not floundering in the middle of a storm-tossed ocean. God gave Jonah a free ride back to shore! God continually did this with His chosen ones in Scripture. Whether He was shutting a lion's mouth (Dan. 6:22), parting a sea (Exod. 14:21-22), or even letting someone hitch a ride in a fish, God protected His children. In Psalm 34 we read, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (vs. 7). Isaiah praised God for being a shelter in the storm (Isa. 25:4). Even Jonah recognized God's protective hand (Jonah 2:6). God is still demonstrating that protective love toward us today. When trouble is stalking us and we are feeling battered, it is easy to forget that He is there. The temptation is to give in to despair and let the tides of circumstance carry us wherever they will. However, we do not have to give in to that impulse. We have a holy God who is in control of all things. The same God who calmed the storm (Luke 8:22-25) is the One who watches over all who love Him (Ps. 145:20). He has each of our names written on the palms of His hands (Isa. 49:16). Though trouble may press hard on us, God will not allow His children to be destroyed (2 Cor. 4:8-9). This means that we need not fear when we face trouble. We know that we will face it in this life (John 16:33). Christ Himself faced it. However, believers have an assurance that the rest of the world lacks. We have an all-powerful God who helps us through hard times and provides a way of rescue for His own. Are you facing a crisis in your life today? Whether physical, financial, relational, or whatever, give it to God. If you belong to Him by His grace, you will be protected. Although it may look doubtful, His plan for your rescue is already in place. Take heart, hold on, and trust in Him to provide the protection you need.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Protection During The Situation (Jonah 2:1-4)

Allows prayer (1-2)

- Prayer that "strives" with others (Rom 15:30)
- Prayer that comes from a righteous heart (James 5:15-16)
- Prayer for those captivated by sin (1 John 5:16)
- Prayer that is in the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:18)
- Prayer that asks for an open door for those who proclaim the gospel (Col 4:3)

Time to realize consequences (3)

- Consequences of God's pronouncement of punishment (Num 16:28-33)
- Consequences of man's pronouncement of punishment (Dan 6:24)
- Consequences of sharing the punishment of sin (Josh 7:20-24)
- Consequences of not partaking of the good things of God (Jer 29:32)

Seeking a better future (4)

- Future blessing of rewards (Matt 10:40-42)
- Future blessing of receiving many times as much as given (Luke 18:28-30)
- Future blessing in this life and the life to come (1 Tim 4:6-8)
- Future blessing of the right to sit with Jesus on His throne (Rev 3:21)

Protection Allows A Thinking Change (Jonah 2:5-7)

Aware of trials and tribulations (5-6)

- Trials and tribulations as an example to others (Jude 7)
- Trials and tribulations as a test (James 1:12)
- Trials and tribulations to show God's love (Rev 3:19)
- Trials and tribulations that are part the discipline of being a child of God (Heb 12:7-8)
- Trials and tribulations that produces holiness and righteousness (Heb 12:10-11)

Remembering God (7)

- Remembering so it can be taught to future generations (Exodus 12:26-27)
- Remembering so that we don't forget what God has done for us (Ps 105:3-5)
- Remembering so that we will understand God better (Mark 8:17-18)
- Remembering to ensure we are always thankful for God's blessings (Luke 17:12-19)
- Remembering to be thankful because of where we came from (Eph 2:11-13)

Protection Knowing God's Love (Jonah 2:8-10)

Love that provided salvation (8-9)

- Salvation among all nations (Ps 67:2)
- Salvation that comes from the sanctification through faith (Acts 26:16-18)
- Salvation for everyone who believes (Rom 1:16)
- Salvation for those baptized in Jesus (Gal 3:26-29)
- Salvation through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

Love that delivers (10)

- God delivers from the evil one (Matt 6:13)
- God delivered from the dominion of darkness (Col 1:12-14)
- God delivers from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)
- God delivers through prayer (Phil 1:19)