**Series: Mission Unsinkable  
Scripture and Background Information for October 31-November 06.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week**,** group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series, “*Unsinkable.*” The series is a study on the book Jonah. Today we will see again the mission of God on display and at work in Jonah’s life. For that, we will look at **Jonah 2** and talk about “*The Message*.”

**Background for Jonah 2:**

After God called Jonah to preach to the Ninevites, Jonah flew in the opposite direction. As we have seen, the writer depicts Jonah’s fleeing with the phrase “*going down*.” After God sent the massive storm to stop Jonah from fleeing, Jonah was thrown into the sea and swallowed by the fish. As already described earlier, the book works with contrasts. Whereas the reader assumes certain death, God gives new life. When the water was not already bad enough, the fish was too much. It seemed like Jonah was doomed, but his tomb became his salvation.

Looking back at 1:17, we meet Jonah literally, at the bottom of the sea. Chapter 2 describes Jonah’s prayer toward God. The prayer of Jonah shows us what Jonah felt when he was thrown into the water. At the same time, it shows us how God felt toward Jonah. When at the bottom of the sea, Jonah realized that God was not finished with him yet. Jonah thanks God for not abandoning him. He experienced faithfulness from God and promised the same faithfulness to God. Finally, God ordered the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land.

Questions to engage with the text:

1. In what terms does Jonah describe his distress? What situation is he referring to when talking about distress? What could be his understanding of his salvation or the answering of his prayer?
2. Jonah’s story is a “But God…” type of story. For the rest of the time in your group spend some time doing the following exercise. Even if you don’t get to anything else this week, the big win for your group discussion will be if you (briefly) summarize Jonah’s “story” together and then give plenty of time for each person in your group to tell a story of their own that intersects in some way with Jonah’s story.”
   1. *All of our stories are like Jonah. Take some time to share your story using the following prompts…*
      1. *I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
      2. *But God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
      3. *Now (even when) I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*So for example, Jonah might say…I was dying. But God in His mercy rescued me from myself. Now even when I run I know God is faithful to pursue me.*

***Note:*** *Often, we view the distress of our life as unfavorable and hindering. Jonah 2 shows us that God can use distress to show us that he is after us while we run away from him. God is a God of second chances, and he loves us.*