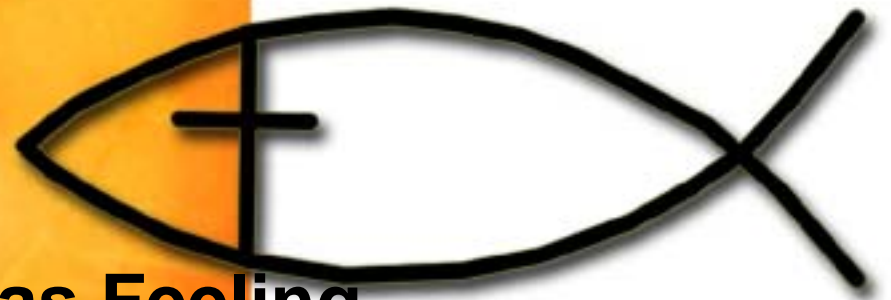
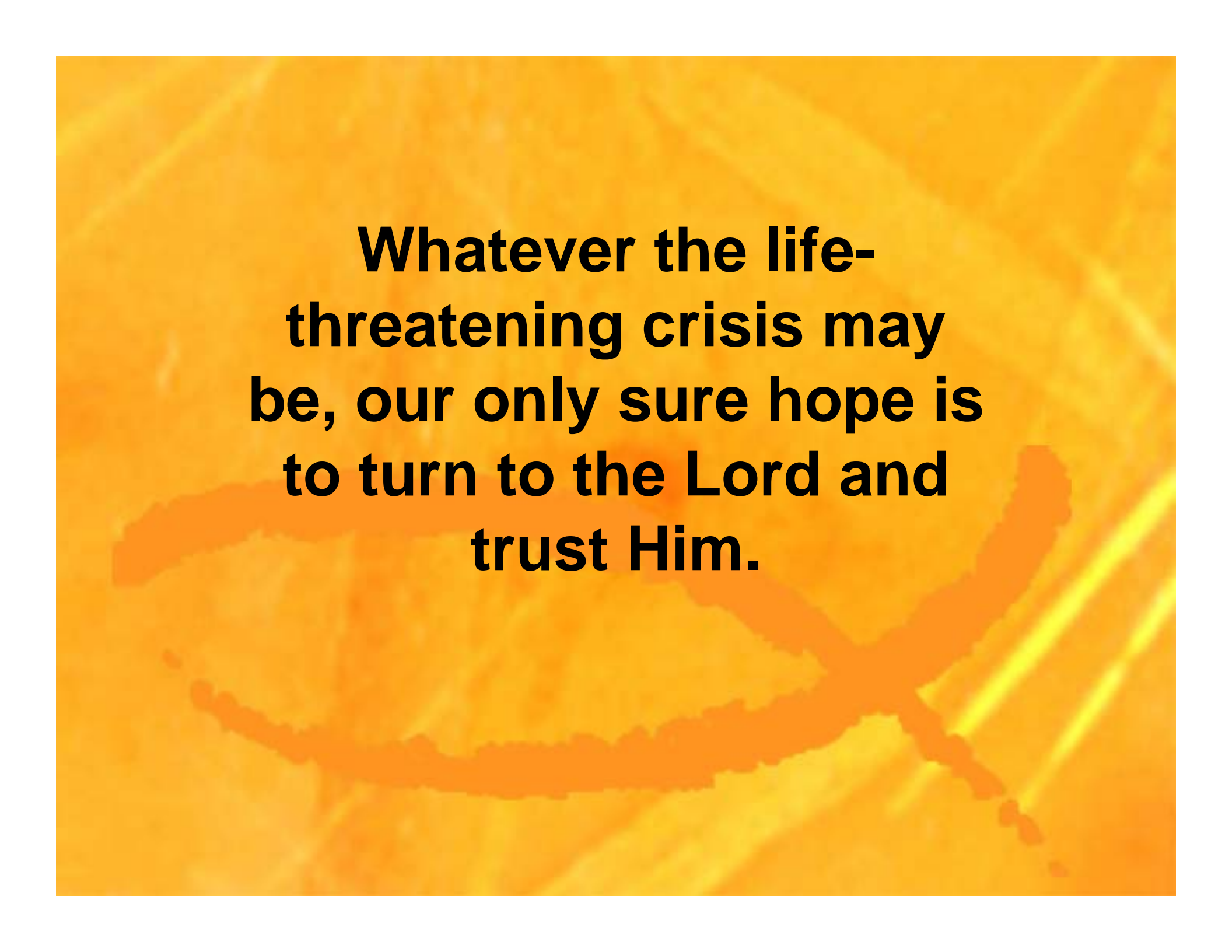


*The Remedy
of
Hopelessness*

Jonah 2



Series: Losing that Christmas Feeling



**Whatever the life-
threatening crisis may
be, our only sure hope is
to turn to the Lord and
trust Him.**

Jonah 1:17-2:10 (HCSB)

17 Then the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the fish three days and three nights.

1 Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish: 2 I called to the Lord in my distress, and He answered me. I cried out for help in the belly of Sheol; You heard my voice.

Jonah 1:17-2:10 (HCSB)

3 You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas, and the current overcame me. All Your breakers and Your billows swept over me.

4 But I said: I have been banished from Your sight, yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple.

Jonah 1:17-2:10 (HCSB)

5 The waters engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6 I sank to the foundations of the mountains; the earth with its prison bars closed behind me forever! But You raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God! 7 As my life was fading away, I remembered the Lord. My prayer came to You, to Your holy temple.

Jonah 1:17-2:10 (HCSB)

**8 Those who cling to worthless idols forsake faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the Lord!
10 Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.**

1. Know That God Provides

17 Then the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah,

God *provided*—prepared or appointed (manah or manahl)—a large fish to swim by the ship for the express purpose of swallowing His prophet.

1. Know That God Provides

- the Lord used the huge fish or whale to keep Jonah alive and keep him from drowning
- the Lord used the large fish to specifically give Jonah a sense of *Hades*—the pit of death and hell—to which the prophet was dooming the 120,000 souls of Nineveh.
- the Lord used the large fish to deliver Jonah from death in order to demonstrate His amazing love and mercy.

2. Know God Hears Our Prayers

2 I called to the Lord in my distress, and He answered me.

- **Jonah called on the Lord, not on some so-called god.**
- **Jonah called upon the Lord when he needed help and more than ever before, the prophet needed help that only the Lord could give.**
- **Jonah did the right thing: he repented.**
- **God Answered**

3. Know God Offers New Life

10 Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

The Lord gave Jonah a new life, a new beginning, a second chance.

The prophet had finally been humbled to the point of repentance.

Now he was to go forth and relaunch his ministry.

Christmas is about new beginnings, new ministries, and new life.

Christmas and Jonah *Christmas and Us*

God provides in the worst times

God hears us in our darkest times

God gives us new life in Christ