

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on The Book of Jonah by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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**“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord”
– 1 Corinthians 1:31**

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Bible Study Questions on the Book of Jonah

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly." Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Bible study commentary and notes to accompany many of our workbooks are available at www.gospelway.com/sales

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Assignments on Jonah 1

Read Jonah 1, then answer the following questions. If you need help, consult a Bible dictionary or similar reference work.

1. Who was the inspired author of the book – 1:1? What is told about his background? (See also 2 Kings 14:25.)

2. When did Jonah prophesy? (Note 2 Kings 14:23-25. Think: What other prophets wrote during this period?)

3. Skim the book of Jonah and state its theme.

4. Where is Jonah mentioned and what is stated about him outside his own book?

5. **Case Study:** Many skeptics doubt the story of Jonah because of its miraculous aspects. How do other references to the story help us answer the skeptics?

6. How does 1:1 state that Jonah was directly inspired? List other similar *passages*.

7. What command did God give Jonah in 1:2? What reason did God give?

8. **Special Assignment:** Summarize what you can learn about Nineveh. Why might Jonah have not wanted to preach to Nineveh?

9. What can God's command to Jonah teach us about the work of preachers and God's love for the lost?

10. List other *passages* about the need to rebuke sinners for their sins.

11. What can we learn from the command to Jonah about God's concern for Gentiles. List other **passages** showing that God wants all people to be saved.

12. How did Jonah respond to God's command – 1:3? Where is Tarshish (see a **map**)?

13. What reason is given for the way Jonah responded?

14. What did God do, and what was the result – 1:4?

15. What did the sailors do to deal with the problem – 1:5?

16. What was Jonah doing, and what did the captain say to him – 1:5,6? (Think: What can we learn from the fact a heathen idol worshiper had to urge a prophet of God to pray?)

17. What did the sailors do next, and what was the result – 1:7?

<p>18. Special Assignment: List other passages about casting lots and explain the significance. Why would it have worked? Should this method still be used today? Explain.</p>
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19. What did the sailors ask Jonah – 1:8?

20. What information did he give them – 1:9,10?

21. **Application:** What can we learn from this story about the character of God?

22. What question did the men ask Jonah then – 1:11?

23. What answer did Jonah give – 1:12? (Think: Would this be cruel to do? Explain.)

24. What effort did the men make in 1:13, and what was the result?

25. What did the men pray in 1:14, and what was the purpose of the prayer?

26. What did the men do with Jonah, and what was the result – 1:15?

27. How did the men react to what happened – 1:16?

28. What did God do about Jonah according to 1:17?

29. **Application:** List some ways that people today attempt to avoid their responsibilities to God.

30. List other **passages** about hiding or attempting to escape from God.

Assignments on Jonah 2

Read Jonah 2, then answer the following questions.

1. How long was Jonah inside the fish – 1:17?

2. What did Jonah do inside the fish – 2:1?

3. **Special Assignment:** List other Bible examples in which God did miracles involving the use of an animal.

4. Why did Jonah say that he cried to the Lord – 2:2?

5. Where did he say that he was? Study and explain the meaning of Sheol.

6. What did Jonah say that God had done to him – 2:3?

7. **Special Assignment:** Explain why this would have been a frightening experience for Jonah.

8. How did Jonah describe his circumstances in 2:5?

9. What did Jonah feel that God had done to him – 2:4?

10. Yet how did he respond? Explain.

11. How did Jonah describe where he went – 2:6?

12. What happened to him then – 2:7?

13. What did God do in response – 2:6,7?

14. Why did Jonah decide it was a mistake to trust in idols – 2:8?

15. **Application:** What are some things other than God in which people today trust, and why is this mistake similar to idolatry?

16. What did Jonah decide he would do – 2:9?

17. Explain how Jonah's statement demonstrates his repentance.

18. **Special Assignment:** Explain how Jonah's experience would have taught him the importance of gratitude and trust and obedience toward God.

19. What did God do when Jonah prayed and expressed his repentance – 2:10?

20. **Special Assignment:** How would you respond to people who doubt that a person could survive inside a fish as described in the story of Jonah?

Assignments on Jonah 3

Read Jonah 3, then answer the following questions.

1. What instruction did God once again give to Jonah – 3:1,2?
2. What can we learn from this about the responsibility of preachers?
3. How is the size of Nineveh described – 3:3?
4. What message did Jonah preach to Nineveh – 3:4?

5. **Application:** What can we learn from the fact that God gave the city forty days?

6. How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message – 3:5?
7. How did the king respond – 3:6?
8. What proclamation did the king make – 3:7?
9. What is indicated by the reaction of the people and the king?
10. What did the king tell the people to do according to 3:8?

11. What reason did the king give for why the people should do these things – 3:9?
12. List other *passages* about the wrath of God.
13. How did Jesus describe the reaction of the people of Nineveh according to Matthew 12:41?
14. What did God do when he saw the response of the people – 3:10?
15. What does this teach us about the nature of God?
16. List other *passages* of Scripture about the importance of repentance.

17. **Application:** What can we learn from this example about what it means to repent?

18. What can we learn about what must come before repentance? List other similar *passages* of Scripture.

19. **Special Assignment:** Explain the relationship between sorrow and repentance. Give Scripture to prove your answer.

20. **Application:** List and explain other Scriptures that show what a person must do after repentance to be forgiven of sins under the gospel.

Assignments on Jonah 4

Read Jonah 4, then answer the following questions.

1. How did Jonah respond to the repentance of the people of Nineveh – 4:1?

2. What reason did he give for his response in 4:2? (Think: Why might Jonah have objected to the fact that God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh?)

3. How strongly did he describe his reaction – 4:3?

4. List other *passages* about the grace and mercy of God.

5. **Application:** Explain how Jonah's attitude differed from what should be expected of a preacher when so many people are converted in response to his preaching.

6. **Application:** God had showed mercy in sparing Jonah. What can we learn about Jonah's attitude when God spared him compared to his attitude when God spared Nineveh?

7. What question did God ask Jonah in 4:4?

8. What did Jonah do, and what was his purpose – 4:5?

9. 4:6-8 name three things that God prepared. List them, and for each one tell what it did.

What God Prepared	What It Did

10. List some other things that God had prepared earlier in the story in order to teach Jonah lessons. (Think: What can we learn about teaching methods?)

11. Describe Jonah's different reactions as the plant grew and as it died.

12. What did God ask Jonah in 4:9, and how did Jonah respond?

13. List the times in the story at which Jonah said he wished to die.

14. How did God describe the plant that had died – 4:10?

15. Explain how God used the plant to demonstrate His concern for the people of Nineveh – 4:11.

16. List other *passages* about the value of a soul and God's concern for the lost.

17. Compare Jonah's attitude to the attitude of the older brother in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15).

18. List other *passages* that show the importance of spiritual matters compared to physical matters.

19. Application: What lessons should we learn from this story about the importance of proper spiritual priorities compared to physical things?

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