
Some Possible Answers for Week 2 of the Jonah Study

Week 2: God's love, grace, and plans involve all people.

Day 1- Overview - Read Jonah 1:9-17

(All "Application" questions are personal so they are not included in this handout. Answers will vary with all these questions. The answers shown are just some of the possibilities.)

1. *In what ways do you see God pursuing Jonah?*

- He sent the storm.
- He caused the crew to realize someone onboard was at fault.
- He sent a great fish after Jonah.

2. *In what way do you see God's love being expressed towards everyone in these verses?*

- God wanted to spare the crew – He may have even kept the ship from sinking.
- He spared Jonah's life by sending the great fish.
- He hadn't given up on Jonah because He still wanted to use him to prophesy to the Ninevites.

3. *How do you see the crew's love for Jonah in these verses?*

- They didn't want to throw him overboard, in fact they tried to row back to shore.

4. *In what way does Jonah demonstrate his love for the crew?*

- He confessed he was indeed the problem and then gave them instructions of what to do with him.

Day 2 – God uses the crew and nature to confront Jonah's disobedience. Read 1:9-10

1. *Do you think the men were terrified of the storm, from what Jonah just said in 1:9, or both? Explain.*

- Answers will vary.

2. *List some places in Scripture where you see God miraculously using nature (see Gen 6; Ex. 7-14; 2 Kings 20:9-11; John 6:19; Matt. 14:19-21; Matt. 27:43-46).*

- Gen. 6 – The flood.
- Ex. 7-14 – All the miracles of plagues, Passover of the death angle, crossing the Red Sea.
- 2 Kings 20:9-11 – A shadow of the sun moved backward 10 steps.
- John 6:19 – Jesus walked on water.
- Matt. 14:19-21 – Jesus feeds 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- Matt. 27:43-46 – Darkness came over the land.

3. *Do you believe God uses nature and people today to get our attention? Explain.*

- Answers will vary.

4. *How do you see the crew's view of Jonah's God changing?*

- They must have thought that Jonah had offended his God and therefore they were in this circumstance.
- They are beginning to demonstrate respect for Jonah's God.

5. *How has your view of God been affected by these verses?*

- Answers will vary.

Day 3 – Another question for Jonah followed by more disobedience. - Read 1:11-12

Some Possible Answers for Week 2 of the Jonah Study

1. *The condition of the sea continues to degrade so the crew approaches Jonah again. What do you learn about the crew's thinking by the question they ask Jonah? What is their concern: Jonah or themselves, or both? Explain*

- They felt there was something they could do to make the sea calm down. This is a reasonable thought since their beliefs in many gods were based on their works/actions. They haven't at this time accepted Jonah's God.
- It seems they were concerned about both themselves and Jonah per 1:13.

2. *Jonah's response consists of three parts: 1) _____ – what to do with him; 2) _____ - the sea will become calm; and 3) _____ - it is my fault. Match these words to the appropriate part: confession; action; promise.*

- 1 = action; 2 = promise; 3 = confession

3. *God has promised to discipline and chasten His wayward children (see Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5-6). How do you see Jonah's experience being a prime example of that?*

- Prov. 3:11-12 – do not despise discipline - the Lord disciplines those He loves.
- Heb. 12:5-6 – similar to Proverbs.
- Answers will vary.

4. *Jonah confessed that he was the reason for the crew's peril. Confession can be of various types. Identify the various types of confession exhibited in these verses: John 1:19-20, 12:42; Romans 10:9-10, 14:11; Hebrews 3:1, 13:15; James 5:16; and 1 John 1:9.*

- John 1:19-20 – his confession was that he was not the Christ.
- John 12:42 – confessing their faith (or lack thereof).
- Romans 10:9-10 – confessing Jesus is a result of being saved.
- Romans 14:11 – some day “every tongue” will confess who Jesus Christ truly is.
- Hebrews 3:1 – He whom we confess is to be what we set our thoughts on.
- Hebrews 13:15 – confessing His name (Jesus) and offering praise to God is fruit of our lips.
- James 5:16 – we are to confess our sins to each other (believer to believer).
- 1 John 1:9 – confessing our sins is a purification process. He forgives us our sins and purifies us from all unrighteousness.

5. *How do you see Jonah as being a type of Christ (see John 10:15; John 11:48-53)?*

- John 10:15 – “just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep “
- Jonah was willing to lay down his life for the crew
- John 11:48-53 – “If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all!⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation,⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to take his life“
- One man's life for many – Jonah fell into that category as did Jesus.
- Note: there are many similarities between Jonah's and Christ's lives. We recommend you continue searching to find all the similarities.

Day 4 – Hesitant and yet obedient. – Read 1:13-15

Some Possible Answers for Week 2 of the Jonah Study

1. *These sailors did not want to throw Jonah overboard so they futilely tried to row back to land. What have you learned about going against God's plan (see Prov. 21:30; Isa 8:10; Acts 5:39)?*
 - Prov. 21:30 – *"There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD."*
 - Isa. 8:10 – *"Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us"*
 - Acts 5:39 – *"But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God"*
2. *How would you compare the sailors concern for Jonah and Jonah's concern for the many people of Nineveh?*
 - It appears that the sailors are much more concerned about Jonah than he is about the people of Nineveh.
3. *What are the two requests the men make to the Lord and what is their realization as to the Lord's authority (see Psalms 115:3)?*
 - Their first request is for the Lord to not let them die.
 - Their second request is that the Lord would not hold them accountable for taking Jonah's life.
 - Psalms 115:3 – *"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him"*
4. *What did the sea do after they threw Jonah overboard? This isn't the only time such a thing has happened, see Psalm 107:29 and Luke 8:24. What do you learn about God and His authority?*
 - The "raging sea grew calm."
 - Psalm 107:29 – *"He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed"*
 - Luke 8:24 – *"The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm."*
5. *How do you see the sailors changing their view of the Lord in these verses?*
 - They cried out to the Lord (14) – indicating they had lost hope in their gods.
 - They prayed to the Lord (14) – they prayed to Him instead of their own gods.
 - They pleaded with Him (14) – their pleading was a form of recognizing His authority.
 - They recognized His power and authority by saying He had done as He pleased (14).
 - They obeyed what Jonah said they must do which was indirectly obeying the Lord (15).

Day 5 – God's grace is for all people. – Read 1:16-17

1. *Now we see the complete conversion of the crew of that ship. What did they do to demonstrate their faith in the Lord?*
 - They greatly feared the Lord.
 - They offered a sacrifice to the Lord.
 - They made vows (commitment) to Him.
2. *What does verse 16 mean when it says the crew greatly feared the Lord (see Mark 4:35-41)? What do these verses say about fear: Psalm 2:11, 19:9, 25:14; Prov. 1:7, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27.*
 - Mark 4:35-41 – *"That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be*

Some Possible Answers for Week 2 of the Jonah Study

still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

- This form of fear today might be said to be "awe!" Just as the disciples were "terrified" as a result of what Jesus said and how natural forces obeyed, the crew on the ship with Jonah had seen a very similar experience.
- Psalm 2:11 – *"Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling"*
- Submission is the only acceptable response to the Lord. Submission is expressed by "service," which connotes a willingness to become His servant and thus to recognize His lordship. The "fear (*yir'ah*) of the Lord in this situation is not a sign of emotional instability, but a mark of wisdom.
- Psalm 19:9 – *"The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous"*
- The Bible is an "open" book; there is no hypocrisy in it. It is "pure," and its purity effects the clean and upright way of those who are "pure". It is "pure" or "flawless." It is "enduring forever," as it does not change with the times and the incessant variations in fashion. God's word is always "in." It is "sure" as it reflects the fidelity and loyalty of God. It is "righteous" as it reflects God's righteousness. It causes integrity, loyalty, uprightness, purity, and growth in righteousness.
- Psalm 25:14 – *"The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them."*
- The "fear of the LORD" is the Old Testament concept for an inner responsiveness and willingness to learn of the Lord. The "humble" are those who continually seek his mercy, forgiveness, and instruction. Maturity in godly wisdom leads to godliness, communion with God ("the LORD confides in those who fear him," v. 14a). How great the benefits are!
- Proverbs 1:7 – *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."*
- Proverbs 3:7 – *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil"*
- Proverbs 8:13 – *"To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech"*
- Proverbs 9:10 – *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"*
- Proverbs 10:27 – *"The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short"*

3. How do you see God's grace towards the crew and Jonah?

- Answers will vary.

4. What are your thoughts about Verse 17? How do you think Jesus viewed the book of Jonah (see Matthew 12:40, 16:4 and Luke 11:30)?

- Answers will vary on the first question.
- Matthew 12:40 – *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"*
- Matthew 16:4 – *"A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away"*
- Luke 11:30 – *"For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation"*

5. Many people have problems with "the great fish," but could it be because their view of God is too limited? Explain.

- Answers will vary.