

# Jonah Study Questions

## Overview

Before discussing the questions, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves to the group. Share your name and favorite book or movie and why it is your favorite.

1. What do you hope to take away from this study?
2. What do you find most difficult or disturbing about reading the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)?
3. What do you believe about the Hebrew/Christian Scriptures regarding their inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy?
4. What do you know about the Old Testament and why would it matter to Christians who have the New Testament?
5. What has been your experience with the Book of Jonah?
6. How do you view it (allegory, myth or fact)? Why?
7. What does it mean to repent?

## Session 1

1. What do you think the passage said to the original audience?
2. What happens when our talk doesn't correlate with our daily walk?
3. Do you believe there is a connection between sin and punishment in this life? Why or why not?
4. Why do humans reach out to God when they are in danger or fearful?
5. What is the application of this chapter to your life as a disciple?
6. We are expected to share the hope we find in Jesus with others. How might you use this chapter to initiate a gospel discussion with an unbeliever?
7. Can you share the gospel in two minutes? (If time allows, give it a try.)

## Session 2

1. What are your initial observations from what you just read?

2. Have you ever turned to God in hopelessness? If so, what did you discover about yourself and Him?
3. What worthless idol(s) was/were in Jonah's life? How about your life?
4. Is it possible for church doctrine or dogma to become an idol?
5. What is the point of praying when God already knows what we need?
6. Does God speak to us today? If so, how?
7. What was going on in Israel while Jonah was preaching to Nineveh?

### **Session 3**

1. What does the passage say to the original audience?
2. What is it saying to you?
3. Have you ever worried that your sin caused God to turn his back on you? How was that fear or worry resolved?
4. God gave Jonah a second chance. Why? How might God's response encourage us in our failures?
5. Nineveh heard and repented. What do you think might have happened if they hadn't? What lesson can you take from that?
6. Who was Jonah's assignment really intended to change (Nineveh or Jonah)?
7. How would you feel about a rapist or murderer escaping eternal punishment by surrendering their life to Jesus in prison?

### **Session 4**

1. What does the passage say to the original audience?
2. What lesson did you take from the chapter?
3. When is it ok to complain or argue with God?
4. Can anyone or any people be too bad for God's grace?
5. How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
6. Jonah seemed to be placing his nationalism over his duty to God. What place should nationalism and politics play in the life of a disciple?
7. If the worm was a metaphor, what might it represent?

### **Session 5**

1. Why do you think Jonah was written?
2. Did the study change your original understanding? If so, how?
3. Would the theological lessons of the book change if Jonah was a mythical person? If so, how?
4. How would you compare the story of Jonah to Jesus's Prodigal Son parable (Luke 15:11-32)?
5. Did the study change your view of your responsibility to share the gospel?
6. Did Jonah change how you view others you might consider "enemies"?
7. What makes sharing the gospel difficult for you?

(Revised 02/28/2024)