

***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**Jonah 4:1-11**

**Sunday, May 28, 2017**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. When God chose to forgive the Ninevites for their sins, how did Jonah respond?**

Jonah became angry with God and thought God had done wrong. He tried to justify his fleeing from God and traveling toward Tarshish because he wanted to prevent God from forgiving the Ninevites, knowing what kind of a Person God is, because he did not want God to do wrong and not punish them – the enemies of the Israelites.

**2. What kind of God is God according to Jonah?**

God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger (patient), and abounding in love; a God who relents from sending calamity when evil people repent, and a God who answers prayer.

**3. Jonah was so angry that it made him unreasonable; therefore, what did Jonah tell God he wanted Him to do?**

He wanted to die (see Jonah 4:3, 8, 9).

**4. What did God do to Jonah after he complained to God and became angry?**

God began to apply redeeming discipline to Jonah to lead him to repent. He first did something to bless Jonah, Jonah was happy did not repent. Therefore, God took away

him the blessing and Jonah became angry again. God asked Jonah questions to help see that he was sinning, and it was wrong to be angry with God, but Jonah refused to repent.

### **5. Why was Jonah concerned about the plant? What concerned God?**

Jonah was concerned about the plant because it made him happy. He was selfish and self-centered. God was concerned about the people and animals, because He had created them, loved them, and knew how they were suffering: because they did not know their right hand from their left (right from wrong), He wanted to help and save them.

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