



## **Consult God Before Resigning**

**May 7, 2017**

**Jonah 1:1-17**

*“At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him”*  
(Jonah 1:16).

Using disobedient and unbelieving people, God can achieve His purposes. The prophet Jonah thought he could resign when God commanded him to go to Nineveh to preach and save the Assyrian capital from destruction. Jonah did not want any part of God’s plan to save his enemies. So, without consulting God, Jonah retired to vacation in Tarshish. God allowed Jonah to buy his ticket in Joppa and board his ship, because God planned to use Jonah to save the pagan sailors on board the ship. Anticipating a pleasant cruise, Jonah went below to sleep; he did not even know when a terrible storm immediately assaulted the ship. The sailors worked hard to keep the ship from breaking apart and each one prayed to his god,

but neither their efforts nor their gods could save them. Finally, the captain went below and commanded Jonah to wake up and call upon his God. After the sailors determined that all their troubles were Jonah's fault, because he was disobeying the God of heaven, the Creator of the sea and dry land, they became terrified. Since Jonah was a prophet of God, they asked him what they should do, and he told them to cast him into the sea. Instead, they tried to save Jonah and themselves by rowing for land. The storm grew worse and their efforts to save themselves and Jonah were futile. So, they prayed to God and cast Jonah into the sea. Immediately, the storm ceased. God used Jonah to lead these unbelieving pagans to true faith in Him, and God encouraged Jonah to obey Him in the future.

### **Thinking Further**

1. How did the sailors determine who was responsible for their calamity? Can you always learn the truth or will of God this way? What are some better ways to make decisions?

2. After the sailors asked him who he was, how did Jonah describe himself?

3. After the sailors learned who Jonah was and what he had done, how did they feel and what did they do eventually after they learned the truth about God?

4. Why do you think they asked Jonah what they should do? What did they do after Jonah told them what to do?

5. What are some of the ways the sailors appear to be morally superior to Jonah, even though they were pagans?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.  
Read the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) on this *International Bible Lesson*.

Visit the [International Bible Lessons Forum](#) for Teachers and Students.

— © Copyright 2017 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. Permission Granted for Not for Profit Use.  
Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083-1052 and [lgp@theiblf.com](mailto:lgp@theiblf.com).