

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Jonah 3:1-10

Sunday, May 21, 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. Give three reasons why someone might think that Jonah might have needed the LORD to speak to him a second time.

1. The Lord knew what Jonah needed, so God told Jonah a second time.
2. He might have felt he did not deserve to be a prophet of God ever again.
3. He might have felt that God had rejected him forever.
4. He might have felt he could take his time to fully recover from his ordeal in the fish, and go to Nineveh when he felt better; not understanding the urgency of his message.
5. He might have needed to be told that his time of discipline was over and he needed to work as a prophet again.
6. He might have needed to be reminded of exactly what God wanted him to say.

2. What evidence did Jonah give that God’s discipline had been effective and his repentance was real?

He immediately obeyed the Word of the Lord explicitly, without any delay or objection.

3. What more might Jonah have said to the Ninevites as he declared God's word to them?

He probably told them about his experience in the fish, which might have explained his awful appearance from the time he spent in the fish. He might have told them that as a Hebrew he did not want to come and preach to them, but God made him do it and had punished him for not doing what he was told to do. He might have told them more about God, as he told the sailors about the God he was fleeing from obeying.

4. What evidence did the Ninevites give that Jonah's warning had been effective and their was repentance real?

They believed the Word of the LORD that Jonah preached. They all repented so fervently and visibly that the king heard about Jonah's preaching. The king and the nobles commanded all the people and animals to fast and wear sackcloth. They all urgently prayed to the LORD. They gave up their evil ways and violence in the city. They expressed their hope in the LORD, that He would have compassion on them and not destroy them.

5. From reading chapter three of the Book of Jonah, what evidence should believers give that they are true followers of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?

They obey the Word of the Lord and urgently pray for the Holy Spirit to help them understand and obey the Bible's teaching.