

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Jonah

- Jonah is a brief but engaging book. Unlike other “minor” prophets, Jonah tells a story rather than announce poetic judgments and/or praise. Work together with a partner or in a small group and fill out the chart below. Be ready to report on your findings!

The Book of Jonah

Chapter titles →							Nineveh's Repentance					
Notes →												
Paragraph titles →	1:1-3	4-10	11-16	17	2:1-9	10	3:1-4	5-9	10	Jonah's Complaint	4:1-5	6-11
God, characterized by His actions →					Deliverer							
Jonah, characterized by His actions →	Disobedient											
Main messages →												

- Describe a circumstance in which someone might shirk or flee a responsibility the Lord lays on that person:

What were Jonah's motivations for his reluctance to listen to God? What motivations hold people back from listening to God's Word today?

- Do you consider the fish swallowing Jonah to be punishment or salvation – Law or Gospel? Be ready to explain why!
- What use does Jesus make of the book of Jonah? (cf. Matthew 12:38–41 and 16:4 and in Luke 11:29–32)

5. Write your memory passage below:

6. Read Jonah's "fish prayer". What is the most critical verse in his prayer and why?

7. What encouragement do you find in the fact that God called Jonah a second time?

8. Which people in your FRAN network seem beyond hope or redemption?

How might Jonah's experience in Nineveh give you new insight and courage?

9. What lesson is God trying to teach Jonah with the vine and the worm?

10. How can this book help us examine our attitude toward missions?

10. A big picture view! Consider the following in relation to the broader messages of the book of Jonah...
 - a. What is the relationship of God and unbelieving nations? (think about God's heart, God's standards, God's revelation of himself, God's response)

 - b. What is the relationship between God and the individual?

 - c. What is the message Israel (whether O.T. Israel or the new Israel of whom Paul speaks in Romans) ought to take from God's interactions with Nineveh and with Jonah?