

## Adult Impact Study Sheet

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November 12, 2023

Read **Jonah 1-4**; if possible from several translations.

For additional insight go to [www.studylight.org](http://www.studylight.org) and [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org).

NOTE: In our thinking we often confine Jonah to the four chapters we have before us. Yet we find Jonah mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25 as one who prophesied the restoration of Hebrew power. "In the early periods of the monarchy the prophets primarily addressed the king and his court... Beginning in the eighth century [BC], however, the prophets increasingly turned their attention to the people... Their role was not to predict as much as it was to advise of God's policies and plans."<sup>1</sup> Such was Jonah's role in the passage we have before us today.

1. When the Lord gave Jonah the directive to go to Nineveh and preach against it, Jonah got on a merchant ship headed to Tarshish. We look at Jonah's actions objectively and think, *What was Jonah thinking?! Why try to run away from the omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God?* Find the answer in Jonah 4:2 and consider/discuss it from Jonah's subjective point of view.
2. Jonah incorrectly assumed that fleeing from God would release him from having to obey God. What was God's motivation in pursuing Jonah?
3. When we as believers try to run from what the Lord has told us to do in His Word, we're actually running from the Lord Himself, the omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God. Consider some things we might run from and why.

How might the Lord pursue us?

4. Was the great fish Jonah's doom or deliverance? How so?

How long do you think it was after the great fish swallowed Jonah that Jonah cried out to God (vv. 2:1-9). If it was immediately, why didn't the fish vomit him out right away? If it was just before the fish vomited Jonah out, why did it take so long for Jonah to pray to the Lord?

5. Consider these thoughts from Charles Stanley in light of the Word of God.
  - The dark moments of our life will last only so long as is necessary for God to accomplish his purpose in us.<sup>2</sup>
  - Brokenness is God's requirement for maximum usefulness.<sup>3</sup>
6. It seems Jonah didn't serve the Lord with his whole heart (2 Samuel 12:24). Is it possible for the believer to act in a similar way? Discuss that.
7. Charles Stanley exhorts us to "Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him. Any other course just isn't worth it."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The IVP Bible Background Commentary, Old Testament*, 400

<sup>3</sup> *The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible*, 1411

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 1411

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 1411