

Bible Study Practice

THE BOOK OF

JONAH

OBSERVATION

Read the entire book of Jonah!

Read it again!

What would you say the theme of the entire book is? _____

Come up with your own titles for each chapter. (Don't use the ones already in your Bible!)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

What seems to be given the most space in Jonah? How much of the book describes historical events? How much of it describes Jonah's attitudes and feelings? Is this surprising? Why or why not?

Is this book written in prose or poetry (or both)?

Why do you think Jonah used different literary types in different places? Do they seem to correspond to different types of content?

Do you notice any major shifts in the book? Where?

Where would you say the climax is?

In chapter 4, what kinds of structural relationships do you see at work? Contrast? Question-answer? Comparison? Why might Jonah use these relationships?

INTERPRETATION

This only scratches the surface of the questions that could be asked!

Who was Jonah? When did he prophesy?

What else was going on in Israel when Jonah was prophesying? Did Jonah have any other prophecies outside the book of Jonah?

Where is Nineveh? Where is Tarshish? Why does it matter?

Whom did Jonah preach to? Why did Jonah preach to them?

Why do you think Jonah did not want to preach to them?

What was the content of Jonah's message to his hearers? Why did he preach this message?

Does this surprise you? Why?

In **chapter 4**, how would you describe Jonah's attitude?

What does it mean for Jonah to be angry? Are there other passages of Scripture that can help?

How would you describe God's attitude?

What does it mean for God to be gracious and compassionate? Are there other passages of Scripture that help?

Why does the author present this contrast between Jonah's and God's attitudes?

Why present it here at the end of the book?

Why does Jonah's attitude differ so completely from God's?

Why does God pursue the question of Jonah's anger? Why in the manner chosen?

What does the contrast in attitudes here imply?

What does the author assume about Jonah's motives?

About God's?

What is implied by the fact that the book ends with this contrast?

What is implied about the nature of obedience?

What is implied about the nature of God?

What about the value of persons?

What is implied about the sin of bigotry and the gravity of selfishness by this stark contrast?