

Questions for Consideration—With the Master on Our Knees—Lesson 4—Lessons from the Prayers of Jonah (Part 1)—The Prayer of a Disobedient Man—Jonah 1 and 2.

1. (a) The Lord tells Jonah to go and preach the message of repentance to the wicked city of Nineveh. What are some of the sins of the city of Nineveh according to Nahum chapter 3? (Nahum was written 150 years after Jonah but there repentance was short-lived and their evil returned. Δ) (b) Why do you think Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh and chose to run from God instead? (Reading chapters 3 and 4 of Jonah will help you answer this question.)

2. Memorize Jonah 2:1, 2.

3. (a) What other facts do we learn about Jonah from the following verses? 2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:1-4. (b) What are the meanings of Christ mentioning's of Jonah in the Matthew passages?

4. (a) Jonah acknowledges that his afflictions are because of his disobedience. (See Jonah 1:12 and 2:1-6). Who else comes to mind in Scripture that acknowledges that their afflictions are because of their own sin? (b) What do you learn from these examples? (c) Do you think all affliction is because of sin? Prove your answer biblically.

5. (a) Jonah mentions twice in his prayer in Jonah chapter 2 that he directs his prayer towards the holy temple. Why do you think he uses this terminology? For help consider 1 Kings 8:22-30 and Psalm 18:1-6. (b) Where do you direct your prayers when you pray?

6. (a) Consider a time you willfully disobeyed the Lord. What afflictions did you endure as a result and what lessons did you learn? (b) How does the lesson of Jonah impact you as you think about first time obedience in your life? (c) How could you use this story to teach your children the importance of first time obedience?

7. If you were in the belly of a fish, what would your prayer be? Please write it down to share with your group.

8. After considering this lesson, what is your prayer to the Lord? Write it down to share with your group.