

Lesson 3 – Jonah 1:7-10

Introduction

As the lesson focuses on the events of Jonah 1:4-10 this week, reflect on a time in the past when you were in the midst of a storm. Did you respond like the sailors or like Jonah? What do you tend to do when you are going through a crisis? The study of the book of Jonah will look at some human emotions that are communicated.

In the ancient near east, the custom of casting lots was commonly used in the decision-making process. This custom will be examined this week.

The lesson will also study the true source of wisdom for those who follow after Christ. What a blessing Christians have whenever decisions need to be made.

You will study another man who went out from Joppa to share the gospel with Gentile people, and then look at God’s heart toward all mankind, Jew and Gentile alike.

Day 1 – Jonah 1:7, 8

1. In today’s lesson you will examine the approach the sailors took to solve their problem of the great storm. A question that will be asked is how you approach problems when they come your way. **Pray** and ask God to help you see the application He would have you make once you have studied today’s lesson, and then begin with these **observation questions**.

- The sailors took action in Jonah 1:5. What was their next idea in Jonah 1:7?
- Why did the sailors attempt to solve their problem in this way? Look for other places in the word where this method was used. A dictionary definition of casting lots is the throwing of dice, to let the “die” determine the answer. Answer the “5 Ws and an H” questions using these references.
 - a. 1 Samuel 10:20-27
 - b. Proverbs 16:33
- The last time Scripture records the casting of lots taking place was in Acts 1:16-26. What happened in this passage and why was this done?
- What significant event came after this “casting of lots” according to Acts 2:1-4?
- The disciples were promised that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit after Jesus ascended to heaven. How do these verses describe the Holy Spirit, and what did Jesus promise that Holy Spirit would do on behalf of His followers?
 - a. John 14:16
 - b. John 14:26

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c. John 15:26

d. John 16:13, 14

2. Please examine these word studies of some of the **key words** used for this lesson.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written <i>in italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
5307 naphal w ^a napiylaah Jonah 1:7	Cast lots , to fall, cast (lots), throw down...	Jonah 1:5, 12, 15
7451 ra haaraa` Jonah 1:7	Trouble , calamity <i>NASB</i> , wickedness, bad or evil, adversity, affliction, calamity, displeasure, distress...	Jonah 1:2 Jeremiah 23:11

3. There is a prophecy in Psalms 22:18 concerning the casting of lots. Please read this prophecy and then its fulfillment in John 19:24. If you can take the time to read all of Psalm 22, it provides a description of the suffering of Christ that will bless your spirit when you focus on what Jesus did on your behalf. Note also what occurred in John's gospel concerning Jesus.

4. How are Christians to make decisions or solve problems? In Question 1 you read Jesus' promises concerning the Holy Spirit. Please look at these other Scriptures to see what help is available to Christians.

a. Isaiah 41:10

b. Hebrews 4:14-16

5. In Jonah 1:8, you read the urgency of the sailors as they asked many questions to get to the bottom of their dilemma. How do you make decisions? What or who do you rely on for counsel and guidance?

Do you sometimes want to have more confidence as you make decisions? Read James 1:5 and James 3:17 to be reminded of God's promise for you concerning His wisdom. Write down the qualities of God's wisdom and meditate on what this means.

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What role have you allowed the Lord to have in your life? Is He your wisdom? Close your time by asking God for His wisdom concerning a specific situation that concerns you.

Day 2 – Jonah 1:8-10

1. Open today by reading Psalm 34:1-11 as a prayer of praise unto the Lord God. **Ask** God for help with today's lesson and then begin with these **observation questions**.
 - Read Jonah 1:8-10 to see the questions the captain and the sailors asked of Jonah, and notice how Jonah answered their questions.
 - Read Jonah 1:1-10 and write a brief statement describing Jonah's character and his personality as revealed in these verses.
 - According to Jonah 1:9, where did Jonah say that God was?
 - Would you say that Jonah's statement was correct? Where is God today? How did Jesus answer this question when He told His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9?
 - Who is in God's presence according to Hebrews 1:3?
 - Look back at Psalm 34 and list the promises made to those who fear the LORD in Psalm 34:7, 9, 11.
2. Please examine these word studies of some of the **key words** used for this lesson.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written <i>in italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
3373 yare yaaree' Jonah 1:9	Afraid , fear <i>NASB</i> , fearing, morally, reverent, afraid, fear (ful)	Proverbs 1:7
5399 phobeo fobeisthe 1 Peter 2:17	Fear , to frighten, to be alarmed, to be in awe of, revere, reverence	Revelation 14:7

3. Having an attitude of living with "the fear of the LORD" was a part of showing devotion to God. Understanding this phrase based on how it is used in Proverbs 1:7 is key. Write out what this says will come to the person who has "the fear of the LORD."

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Look at these other Scriptures to see the exhortation in each of these verses.

a. Proverbs 8:13

b. Proverbs 9:10

c. Proverbs 14:27

d. Proverbs 31:30

4. Now look at these references in the New Testament to add to your understanding of Scripture's command to fear the LORD.

a. 1 Peter 2:17

b. Ephesians 5:21

5. What did Jesus teach concerning fear in Matthew 10:21-31?

Who are Jesus' disciples to fear?	Who are believers not to fear?

6. List the characteristics of the early church that are given in Acts 9:31.

7. Jonah said, "I fear the LORD God," and yet he had just disobeyed God. Do you see a relationship between the attitude expressed in the phrase "fear the LORD" and the concept of obedience to Him? Explain what that means to you.

8. One way to learn something is to consider what is the opposite to what you are seeking to understand. What would be the opposite to having an attitude of fearing the Lord?

What does this expression "the fear of the LORD" mean to you personally?

According to the Scriptures you have just studied, how can you "develop" the right attitude toward the Lord?

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Please close by looking at some of David’s words in Psalm 23 and then Psalm 27:1. What is the evidence of David’s heart attitude toward the Lord?

How does David describe God and what does David say about fear?

Please close by meditating on your heart attitude toward God. Can you say that you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?

Days 3 and 4 – Jonah 1:8-10

1. The lesson for the next two days will focus on Jonah’s declaration of God the Creator in Jonah 1:9. Open by **praying** to your loving heavenly Father who created you, and who knows you intimately. Now please begin with these **observation questions**.

- What did Jonah declare about himself and about God in Jonah 1:9?

- What does Jonah 1:10 say about Jonah’s testimony and his relationship to God?

- One specific goddess of the Assyrians and the Canaanite region was Asherah, or in the plural form, Ashirim, who was associated with passion, fertility, and the sea. According to tradition, she was the wife of the god El, and the mother of Baal. She and her son were sometimes consorts, sometimes bitter enemies, and the people of that time often worshipped them together. Her image was generally made of wood, and often the worshipping of Asherah took place under the shade of a tree. Read 1 Kings 14:9, 15 to see the promise God made to Israel because of their relationship with this idol. To understand the context of these verses, read 1 Kings 14:1-20.

- Please read Genesis 1:1-27. This is the account of creation that Jonah very briefly summarized in Jonah 1:9. What two aspects of nature did Jonah mention?

2. Please examine these word studies of some of the **key words** used for this lesson.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s Concordance unless written in italics:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
5680 ibriy `ibriy Jonah 1:9	Hebrew , an Eberite (i.e. Hebrew), or descendant of Eber (<i>see Genesis 10:21</i>)	Genesis 14:13 (first use in the Bible)
6213 asah `aasaah Jonah 1:9	Made , to do or make, accomplish, advance, appoint...bring forth	Genesis 1:7, 16, 25, 31
1254 bara baaraa' Genesis 1:1	Created , qualified meaning, to cut down (a wood), select (as formative processes), choose...	Genesis 1:21

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3. An important key to understanding the definition of a word is to look within the context to where it is found. Please look back at the word studies on page 21 to review the word used for God in Jonah 1:9. Now look at these two references to God in Genesis to see how the word was used in these Scriptures to give information concerning God.

a. Genesis 1:1

b. Genesis 1:26 (Also note what pronouns are used in place of the name God.)

4. The gods of the sailors did not calm the storm, and they were eager to figure out the source of their problem. People who were not of the nation Israel had gods that they worshipped, and the same word was used for their gods as the Israeli people used for their God, the name *Elohim*. Please record information shared in these verses about God.

a. Isaiah 45:12

b. Isaiah 45:18

5. What does Genesis 1:26 mean by the word “us”? The following verses will help you answer that question. Note what you learn about the relationship that God had with His Son.

a. Colossians 1:13-17

b. Ephesians 1:4-6

c. John 14:10, 11

d. Hebrews 1:2

e. 1 Peter 1:17-21

f. Genesis 1:2

6. Please discuss why you think Jonah used the word *Elohim* in Jonah 1:9. Keep in mind the people that Jonah was speaking to and what you know about their religious background.

7. Was there ever a time in your life when you struggled with the way God created you? Maybe that is an issue in your life today. Psalms 139 contains profound truth regarding your own creation. Read through this Scripture that you might be encouraged in your faith and in the truth of who you are in the Lord. God wants you to have peace with this issue. The enemy wants you to not accept yourself as God created you. Write below what verse or verses especially ministered to you in this passage.

Are you ready to share these truths with others who might come into your life that are struggling with “wishing” they were somehow different than God created them to be? Until you accept God’s creation of yourself, you will not be able to encourage anyone with this. Ask God to help you understand His love for you and His plan for your life, so that you might allow yourself to rest in His sovereignty.

In a class I attended I took a personality test and when I received the results, I struggled with the description of “who I was.” I shared with the woman sitting next to me my frustration and she simply said, “The potter is smiling at you.” This truly ministered to my spirit when I was feeling less than accepting about a certain aspect of my personality, because it forced me to acknowledge that God is the potter and I am the clay. In fact when that area of my personality is in balance, it is a strength that God gave to me. God designed me to be very accurate, thorough, sequential, and methodical. When I read that in the test results it seemed very boring to me. And yet, God has directed me to use these qualities in the writing of Bible studies in the past four years. God has used this ministry to be a blessing to others in the body of Christ. The time I spend studying the word has strengthened me and helped me grow closer to the Lord. However, if I am not careful, my commitment can lead to compulsive behavior. I know that I was created to bring God glory, and that is the desire of my heart. My desire is also to be pliable in God’s hands, in the center of His will or in the center of the wheel, to continue the potter and the clay analogy! We all need to pray against the work of the enemy who has come to rob, kill and destroy us. Satan often tries to rob us of peace, causing us to forget what we as believers mean to God, the Creator.

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Considering your own life, what aspect of your personality or appearance are you most contented with? Thank God for the way He created you, and thank Him that He has provided everything you need for life here and life eternal, as well as everything you need to be godly.

Please close by meditating on the truths of Psalm 139 concerning your relationship with your creator God.

Day 5

1. For centuries God told His people that they were not to associate with their neighbors who worshiped “foreign” gods. Please open today by investigating an event in Acts 10 that revealed God’s heart toward all people. **Pray** for God’s mercy to minister to your spirit as you read this passage and then **observe** the text of Acts 10.

- Jonah was on a ship with sailors and a sea captain, being cast about on a stormy sea somewhere off the coast of Joppa. Hundreds of years later God spoke through a vision to a devoted disciple in Joppa. Answer the “5 Ws and an H” questions to observe the text of Acts 10.

- What profound truth did Peter express about God in Acts 10:34?

2. Acts 10:43 is a key verse to Acts 10. What is significant about this verse?

3. What did the prophet Jonah and the apostle Peter share in common with one another?

4. What was different about Jonah and Peter’s attitude toward their calling by God?

5. After reading Jesus' Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:6-8, please look at what that meant when Christ shared that command then and what it means to believers today. Answer the "5 Ws and an H" questions concerning these commands given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Now we will look back to the Old Testament to see God's promise to Abraham that was recorded in Genesis 12:1-3. What does the last part of verse 3 mean?

7. God commanded the nation of Israel to separate themselves from the people in the lands surrounding them. These neighboring people generally had a negative impact upon the people of Israel. However, there are examples in the Bible of two different women who were not of Hebrew descent that actually followed after the Lord God. Both Rahab and Ruth are unique in that their upbringing was among people who worshipped pagan gods. Both of these women turned away from that practice to follow God. Both of these women are listed in Matthew 1, among the ancestors of Christ. Often reading lists of ancestors can be monotonous, but the genealogies of Matthew 1 can be an encouragement because it proclaims that the grace of God extends to all people, Jew and Gentile alike.

Read Galatians 3:1-9 and meditate on what this means to you personally.

8. Do you think that Jonah understood the promise that God spoke to Abraham?

After the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost to indwell all believers, God's Spirit empowered believers with truth to lead and guide, comfort and help. According to Acts 10, what did it take for the apostle Peter to understand God's promise?

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9. Do you remember a time when you “set aside or forgot” one of God’s promises to you? Were your circumstances in any way similar to Abraham’s, or Jonah’s, or Peter’s?

Will you express your heart toward God regarding this truth? What promise will you claim today concerning the Lord and your relationship with Him?

It is wonderful that you have the Bible to help you understand God and His provision for you as His child! You can thank God for this gift to you and His faithfulness. One of my favorite hymns is “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” You might close by allowing the words of this song of worship speak for you.

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not: As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand has provided – Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus:

By Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan

