

**WRONG WAY,
JONAH!**

**KAY ARTHUR
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WITH SCOTI DOMEIJ



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GETTING THE STORY FROM GOD'S WORD—

A BIBLE STUDY YOU CAN DO!



Hey, guys, come on up to the tree house! There is a big news story unfolding in Israel that we want you to help us uncover. Molly, Sam (the great face-licking detective beagle), and I are planning our new Bible adventure. By the way, my name is Max. We want you to join us as we create our own newspaper—the *Nineveh News*—to get the scoop on a prophet named Jonah, plus one of Israel's old enemies, the nation of Assyria.

This is an amazing news story that the world needs to know about! **WHAT** do we need to investigate? **WHO** is Jonah? **WHAT** does God tell him to do? **WHERE** does Jonah go? **WHAT** happens then? **WHAT** is God's plan for Jonah and the people in Nineveh? And **HOW** does Jonah feel about God's plan?

You'll get the answers to all these questions and scoop the competition as you head out on the scene by going straight to God's Word, the Bible the source of all truth, and by asking God's Spirit to lead and guide you.

You also have this book, which is an inductive Bible study. The word *inductive* means you go straight to the Bible *yourself* to investigate what the book of Jonah shows you about an awesome God and a man named Jonah. In inductive Bible study you discover for yourself what the Bible says and means.

Aren't you excited? Grab your Bible and get ready for an unbelievable adventure as you uncover the *real* story about a man who tried to run away from God. Then you can spread the news to show other people WHO God is, HOW much He loves us, and WHY we should obey Him the *first* time!



STORMY SEAS



JONAH 1:1-9

“We’re glad you’re here!” Max called out. “Are you ready to uncover a very important news story so the world can learn about God and His prophet named Jonah?” Max paused for a breath.

“This is going to be so cool. Newspapers help people find out what is going on in the world. Mr. Davis, the publisher of our daily newspaper, is going to let us help out at his paper so we can learn from the pros how to gather the news and make our own newspaper, the *Nineveh News*.”

“We want to make sure everyone knows this incredible story about Jonah. So grab your pens and paper. Molly, get Sam’s leash. Let’s head downtown so we can get started on our first assignment.”



OUR ASSIGNMENT

“Hi, Mr. Davis,” Molly announced, “we’re here. Uh-oh, Max... you better grab Sam’s leash. He just saw Mr. Davis. *Whew!* You got him in the nick of time to save Mr. Davis from a face-licking!”

"Hi, kids." Mr. Davis smiled as he patted Sam's head. "Yes, I have heard all about you too, Sam! Are you ready to get started, Max and Molly?"

"We sure are!"

"Great! Then let's head over to meet Mr. Chase, the head of our editorial department."

"Mr. Chase, this is Max and Molly, and their famous face-licking detective beagle, Sam."

"It's great to meet you. Hi, Sam—I have heard all about you." Mr. Chase chuckled as he reached down to meet Sam.

"Oh, no! He got you!" Max exclaimed. "Sorry about that, Mr. Chase."



"That's okay, Max. I knew he was fast, but not that fast."

The kids started laughing as Sam barked his agreement and wagged his tail.

"Okay, the first thing you need to do to get started on your newspaper is to decide what you want to write about and gather the facts so you can write a great news story," Mr. Chase said.

"After you finish writing your story, I will make sure it is accurate before you go to print. Do you guys have a lead on a good front-page story?"

"We sure do!" Max answered. "We are going to investigate the book of Jonah to find out what is happening with one of God's prophets and one of Israel's enemies."

"That sounds like a great lead story," Mr. Chase replied. "Do you know what you need to do first?"

Molly smiled. "We know."

How about you, rookie reporter? Do you know what you need to do before you open your Bible and begin your investigation?

"The first thing you need to do is to talk to God," Mr. Chase reminded them. "The Bible calls this prayer! Bible study should *always* begin with prayer. You need to ask God to be your Master Editor—to direct you by His Holy Spirit so you can understand what the Bible says and handle it accurately."

"Let's pray and ask God for His help as we get ready for our first assignment for the *Nineveh News*," Max said.

They all prayed together.

"I am so proud of you!" Mr. Chase exclaimed. "Now that you have prayed, the next step in becoming a top reporter is to head to the scene and find out what is happening. Good investigative reporters get the *facts*. They know they need to be accurate! Reporters shouldn't go on hunches. Reporters should tell the story just like it happened. That's what we call having *integrity*. Integrity means to be trustworthy and sincere. It means to be honest and to do the right thing even when no one is looking."

Okay, reporters, grab your pencils and let's get the scoop. We are going to begin our investigation by tracking down one of the main characters in our story: *God*.

One way we can uncover clues about main characters is to mark their names in a special way in the Bible so we can get a closer look at these people. Today we are going to mark every place we see the word *God*. We also need to mark each *pronoun* that refers to God. What are pronouns? Check out Mr. Chase's notes.

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. A noun is a person, place, or thing. A pronoun stands in for a noun. Look at the two sentences below. Watch how the pronoun *he* is substituted for Max's name in the second sentence.

Max can't wait to track down God because he wants to beat Molly by getting the scoop first.

The word *he* is a pronoun because it takes the place of Max's name in the second sentence. *He* is another word we use to refer to Max.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking people's names:

I	you	he	she
me	yours	him	her
mine		his	hers
we	it		
our	its		
they	them		

Now that you know what pronouns are, turn to your Observation Worksheets on page 123. Observation Worksheets have the Bible text printed out for you to use as you study Jonah.

Read Jonah 1:1-9 and mark every reference to *God* or *LORD* in a special way, just like this:

 **God** (LORD—LORD is another name that means God)
(draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)

All right! Now that we have tracked down one of our main subjects of this story, let's find out what we can learn about God from each of these verses. Look at every place you marked *God* (or *LORD*) on your Observation Worksheet. Make a list in your notebook on what you learned about God (*LORD*).



My List on God

Jonah 1:1 The _____ of the _____
came to _____.

Jonah 1:4 The LORD _____ a _____
_____ on the _____ and there
was a _____.

Jonah 1:9 The LORD God of _____
who _____ the _____ and the
_____.

Wow! WHAT does this list show us about WHO God is and WHAT He can do? In Jonah 1:1 we see that the “Word of the LORD” came to Jonah. This verse shows us that God talks to Jonah. Isn’t it awesome to see that God speaks to ordinary people?

In Jonah 1:4, we see the LORD hurls a great wind on the sea

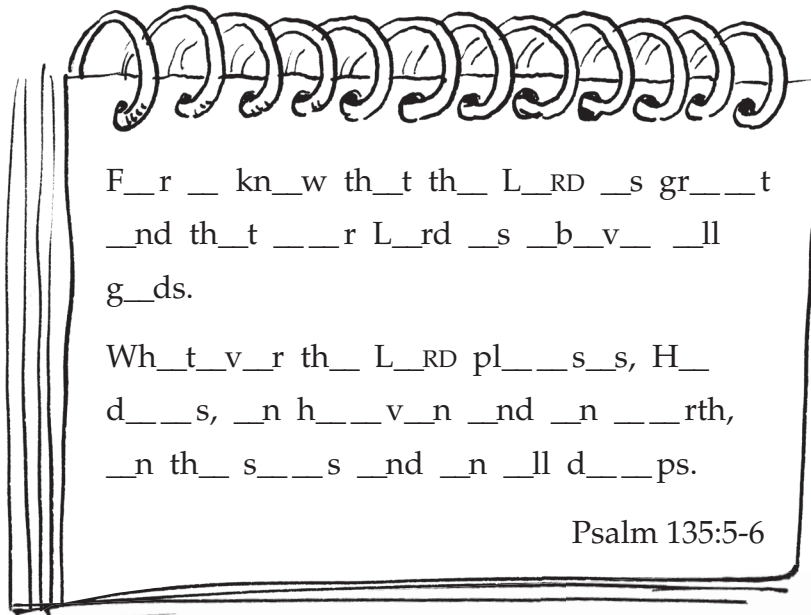
and causes a great storm. God is all-powerful! He has the power to create storms. He rules over nature!

In Jonah 1:9, we discover that God made the sea and dry land. That shows us that God is *Elohim*, the Creator! He created everything.

Are you blown away at what you have learned about God in these verses today? You know that God talks to people. God is all-powerful. He rules over nature. And God doesn't just rule over nature—He created it. Incredible! Just wait! There is so much more to learn about our awesome God.

We are off and running, but before you leave the office, Mr. Chase has one more assignment for you—your memory verses. Each week you will have a new assignment (one or two Bible verses to learn) to help sharpen your memory skills and give you direction as you do your investigative work.

Max copied down your two verses for this week using his speed-writing skills. Reporters sometimes use speed writing to get the facts down quickly. To decode Max's notes, you need to decide which of the missing vowels (a,e,i,o,u) needs to go on each of the blanks. Put the correct vowel in each blank to discover your memory verses for this week.



Fantastic! Now look at your verses and write out three things they tell you about God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name something that has happened in your life or something in the life of someone you know that shows “the LORD is great.”

What a day! Did you know these things about God? Why don't you write these verses on an index card? Now practice saying them out loud three times in a row...three times today!

Think about all the wonderful things you learned about God. Wow!



A PROFILE ON JONAH

It's great to have you back at the office. Mr. Chase has given us our next assignment. Today we need to investigate the other main character in the book of Jonah. Let's get started by talking to our Master Editor and asking for His help as we head back to Israel to dig up the facts on a man named Jonah.

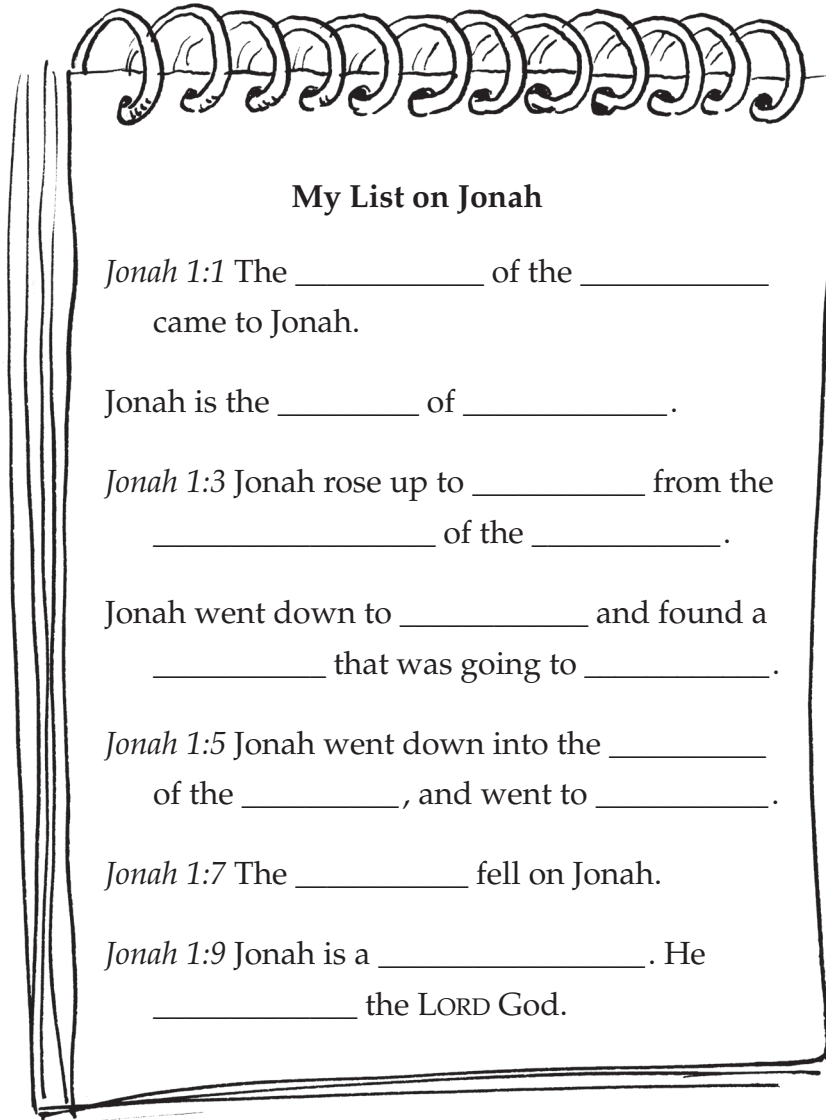
All right! Now that you have prayed, grab those colored pencils and turn to your Observation Worksheet on page 123.

Read Jonah 1:1-9 and mark every reference to Jonah in a special way, just like we have.

Jonah (color the word orange)

Don't forget to mark the pronouns!

Awesome! Now let's learn what we can about Jonah. Look at every place WHERE you colored *Jonah* orange in verses 1-9 and make a list of what you discover about him in your notebook.



My List on Jonah

Jonah 1:1 The _____ of the _____
came to Jonah.

Jonah is the _____ of _____.

Jonah 1:3 Jonah rose up to _____ from the
_____ of the _____.

Jonah went down to _____ and found a
_____ that was going to _____.

Jonah 1:5 Jonah went down into the _____
of the _____, and went to _____.

Jonah 1:7 The _____ fell on Jonah.

Jonah 1:9 Jonah is a _____. He
_____ the LORD God.

Let's get a little more background information on Jonah by doing some *cross-referencing*. Cross-referencing is where we go to other passages of Scripture and compare Scripture with Scripture. Pull out your Bible and look up 2 Kings 14:23-25.

2 Kings 14:25 WHO is Jonah?

WHERE was he from? _____

Turn to page 19 and on the map double-underline in green WHERE Jonah is from. Great investigative work!

Now think about the things you have learned about Jonah. You know WHO he is. Jonah is the son of Amittai. He is a Hebrew, which means he is one of God's chosen people—a Jew. He is from Gath-hepher. He is a servant of the Lord—a prophet.

Do you know what a prophet is? A *prophet* is someone who is called by God. God speaks to His prophets through words, visions, and dreams. God's prophet is to tell the people God's words and messages. Some things God wants a prophet to tell the people are what they are doing wrong (sinning) or what God is going to do in the future. Isn't that awesome? Jonah has been called by God to speak His words to other people.

Tomorrow we will continue our research to get more insights into this servant of God. Don't forget to practice your memory verses!



GATHER THE FACTS

"Okay, kids." Mr. Chase smiled as he looked over Max and

Molly's notebooks. "Your notes are looking good. Your assignment today is to get the facts by asking the 5W's and an H. Every news story always includes the 5W's and an H."

Do you know what the 5 W's and an H are, rookie reporter? They are the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW questions.

1. Asking WHO helps you find out:

WHO wrote this?

WHO are we reading about?

WHO was this passage written to?

WHO said this or did that?

2. WHAT helps you understand:

WHAT is the author talking about?

WHAT are the main things that happen?



3. WHERE helps you learn:

WHERE did something happen?

WHERE did they go?

WHERE was this said?

When we discover a WHERE, we double-underline the WHERE in green.

4. WHEN tells us about time. We mark it with a green clock  or a green circle like this .

WHEN tells us:

WHEN did this event happen or WHEN will it happen?

WHEN did the main characters do something?

It helps us to follow the order of events.

5. WHY asks questions like:

WHY did he say that?

WHY did they go there?

WHY did this happen?

6. HOW lets you figure out things like:

HOW is something to be done?

HOW did people know something had happened?

Now that you know what the 5 W's and an H are, talk to your Master Editor and ask for His directions so you don't go the wrong way. Great!

Turn to page 123 and read Jonah 1:1-9 again.

Okay, rookie reporter, pull out your notebook and start asking the 5 W's and an H.

Jonah 1:1 WHO is the main person in this story?

WHAT comes to Jonah?

Remember, that's God speaking to Jonah.

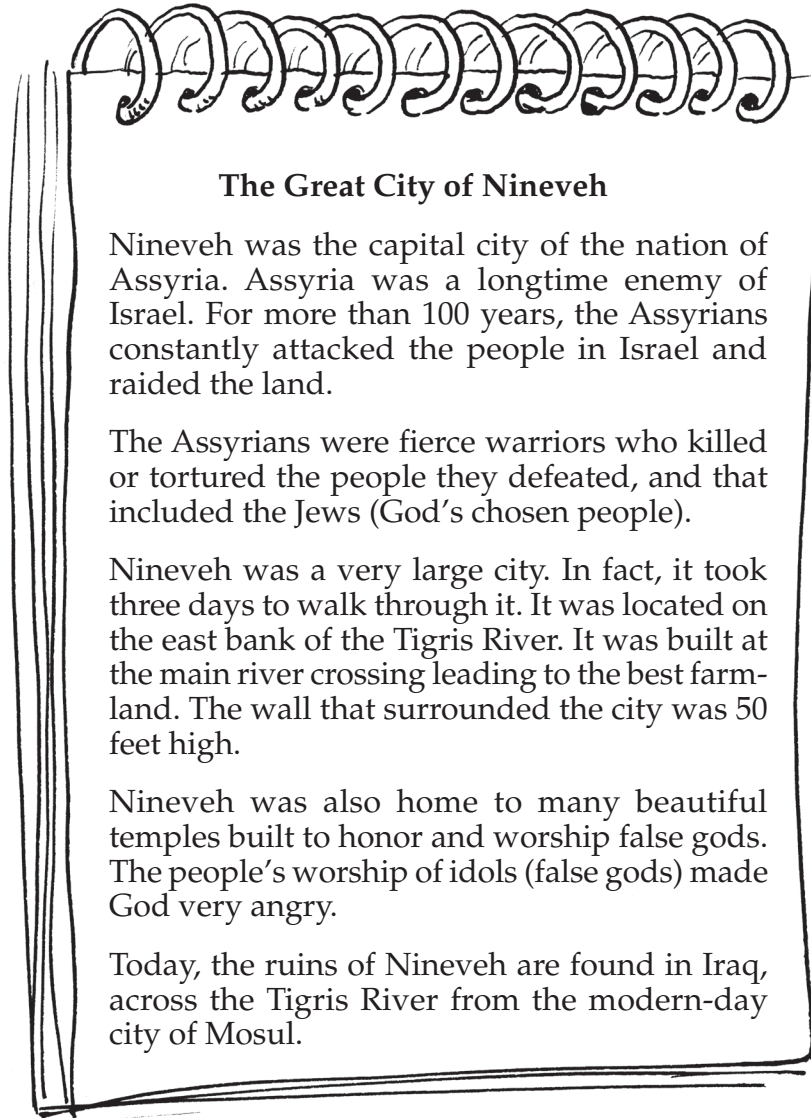
Jonah 1:2 WHAT two things does God tell Jonah to do?

1. _____

2. _____

WHY does God want Jonah to cry out against Nineveh?

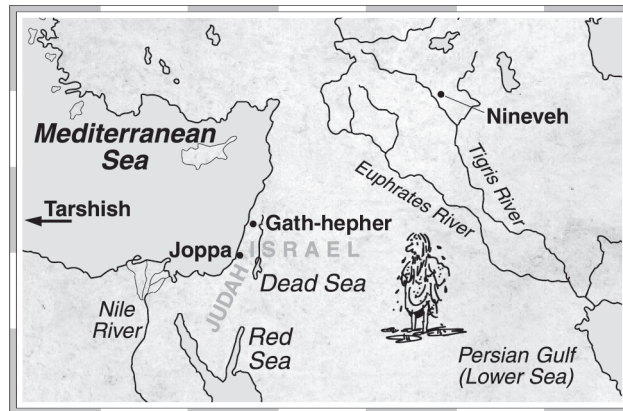
Take a look at Max and Molly's research notes on Nineveh so you will know what Nineveh was really like.



Jonah 1:2 WHERE does God want Jonah to go?

When we discover a WHERE in the Bible, we double-underline the WHERE in green. Turn to page 123 and double-underline in green the word that tells WHERE on your Observation Worksheet in Jonah 1:2.

Now look at the map and draw a green arrow from Jonah to WHERE God told him to go.



Wow! Are you surprised that God wanted Jonah to go and tell these people, who were Israel's enemy, what they were doing wrong?

Jonah 1:3 WHERE did Jonah go to find a ship?

Double-underline this WHERE in green on your Observation Worksheet on page 123.

Look back at your map and draw a red arrow from Jonah to WHERE he went to find a ship.

Jonah 1:3 WHERE is the ship going? WHERE does Jonah want to go? _____

Double-underline this WHERE in green. Then look at your map and draw another arrow from Joppa to WHERE the ship was going to take Jonah.

Is this where God told Jonah to go? ___ Yes ___ No

Is Jonah going the right way or the wrong way?

Jonah 1:3 HOW did Jonah respond to God's command?

He fled to _____ from the p _ _ _ _ _ e
of the L _ _ D.

Can you do that? Can you run away from God? ___ Yes ___ No
How do you know? Let's find out. Look up and read Psalm 139:
1-10 in your Bible.

Psalm 139:2 WHAT do we see about the LORD?

"You know when I _____ down and when I
_____ up; You _____ my _____
from afar."

Psalm 139:7-10 Can you get away from God's Spirit or
flee from His presence? ___ Yes ___ No

Isn't God amazing? God knows your thoughts. And there isn't any place you can go to get away from His presence. Jonah is headed in the opposite direction from where God told him to go. He is trying to run away from God, but God is still with

him. God told Jonah what to do, but Jonah has chosen to do the wrong thing.

HOW about you, rookie reporter? Can you think of a time when you knew the right thing to do but didn't do it? Write out a brief story about WHAT you did, WHAT happened, and WHAT you should have done.

Wrong Way, _____!
(put your name here)

Way to go! WHAT will you do the next time something like that happens?

Good for you! Now don't forget to practice your memory verses.

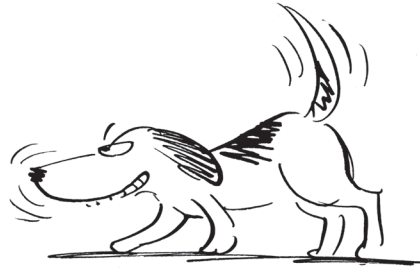
Tomorrow we will hop on the boat with Jonah to find out what happens next.



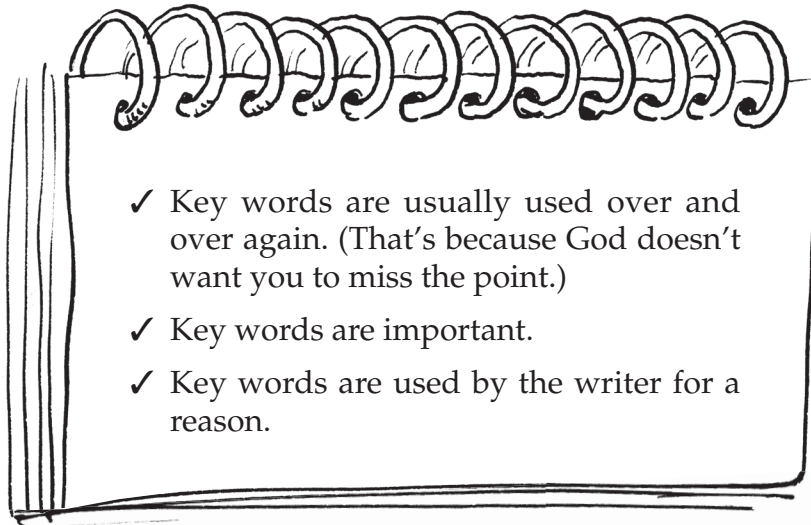
MORE RESEARCH

Watch out! Here comes Sam. He is so excited about being on the trail of a hot news story. Look at him sniffing around. Quick!

Give him a treat so we can continue to get the facts now that we know Jonah has chosen to go the wrong way, going to Tarshish instead of to Nineveh like God told him to do. We need to find out what happens. Don't forget to pray!



Let's head back to the book of Jonah and continue our investigation by marking key words. What are *key words*? Key words are words that pop up more than once. They are called key words because they help unlock the meaning of the chapter or book you are studying and give you clues about what is most important in a passage of Scripture.



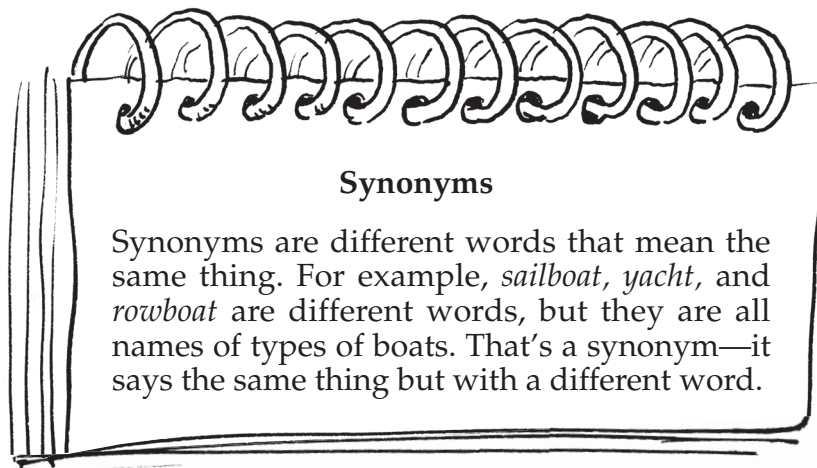
Once you discover a key word, you need to mark it in a special way using a special color or symbol so that you can immediately spot it in Scripture.

You may also want to make a bookmark for these key words so you can know what they are at a glance as you mark them on your Observation Worksheets.

To make a key-word bookmark, get an index card or a piece of


paper and write the key words we've listed, as well as how you are going to mark them on your Observation Worksheets.

When you mark your key words, you will also need to mark any other words that mean the same thing, such as pronouns and synonyms. (You learned what pronouns were when you marked *God* and *Jonah*.) Take a look at Max and Molly's notebook to learn about synonyms.





Great! Turn to page 123. Read Jonah 1:1-9 and mark the key words and any synonyms for those words that we have listed for you.

Key Words


storm (calamity) (draw a blue wavy line under the word and red lines like this  over the word and color the word red)

sailors (color it blue)

pray (cried, call) (draw a purple  and  and color it pink)

captain (color it red)

Don't forget to mark the pronouns! And mark anything that

tells you WHEN by drawing a green clock  or green circle like this:  .

Get the facts. Find out WHAT happens after Jonah gets on board the ship. Ask those 5W's and an H.

Jonah 1:4 WHAT did the Lord do when Jonah tried to run from His presence?

Jonah 1:5 HOW did the sailors respond to the storm?

Did their gods answer? _____

Look at WHAT the sailors did next.

WHAT did the sailors do after they cried to their gods?

WHAT is Jonah doing?



Jonah 1:6 WHAT are the captain's instructions to Jonah?

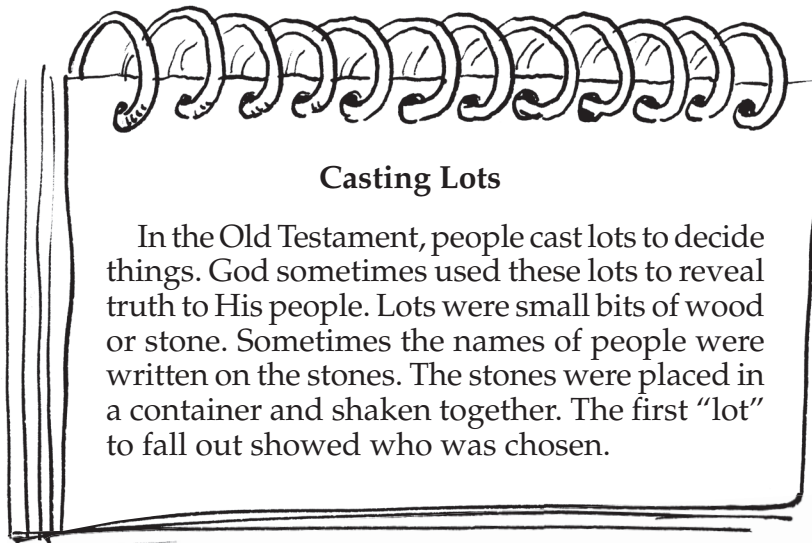
Jonah 1:7 WHAT do the sailors do to find out why this calamity has struck them?

Do you know what a *calamity* is? A calamity is deep trouble or misery. It can be anything that brings great loss or disaster.

WHAT is the calamity the sailors face? HOW is it described in Jonah 1:4?

The calamity in Jonah 1 was the storm. Did you mark *storm* and *calamity* the same way?

Since the sailors cast lots to find out who was causing this calamity, let's look at Max and Molly's notes to find out what it means to cast lots.



Jonah 1:7 WHO did the lot fall on? _____

Wow! The storm (the calamity) happened because of Jonah.

Jonah 1:8 WHAT did the sailors want to know about Jonah?

Jonah 1:9 WHAT did Jonah say?

Look back at Jonah 1:2. WHAT didn't Jonah tell them?

What a story! Can you believe it? God sent this terrifying storm because Jonah disobeyed Him. WHAT lessons do you learn for your life?

Think about the storm God sent. Is Jonah the only one affected by this storm?

____ Yes ____ No

WHO else is affected on the ship?

Think about these other people. The sailors are afraid. They throw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. The captain is responsible for the cargo that is now lost.

Do you see how Jonah's disobedience affected other people? When you sin, it doesn't just affect you. When you sin you also

hurt other people. Can you think of a time when you did something wrong and it hurt someone else? Write out WHAT you did and WHAT happened.

Jonah says he fears God in verse 9. To fear God is to know God, to trust God, and to respect God. If God tells you to do something, if you fear Him then you listen and obey Him. Does Jonah really fear God since he is disobeying and running away?

Does Jonah think he can get away with this? _____

How about you? Have you ever thought you could do something wrong and you wouldn't get caught?

___ Yes ___ No

WHAT was it? WHAT happened?

Do you listen to what God tells you in His Word and obey Him?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes

Write out one way you obey God.

The sailors questioned who Jonah was because he was the reason for the storm. Can people tell you are a Christian by watching you? Or does the way you behave cause others to have doubts about you? For instance...

- Do you help others? Name one way you helped someone else.

- Do you watch things you shouldn't watch on TV, at the movies, or on the Internet?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes

- HOW do you speak to your parents and teachers—with respect or with disrespect?

- Are you kind to kids who don't have any friends? Circle the answer that best fits you.

a. No—I have my own special friends that I hang out with.

b. Sometimes—it depends on my friends and who the kid is.

c. Yes—I am friendly and talk to kids who don't have any friends. I invite them to hang out with me.

If your answer was *no* or *sometimes*, change your actions by being kind to someone this week.

From the way you answered all the questions, do your actions show others that you know God?

___ Yes ___ No

Write out WHAT you need to change if your actions don't show you love and obey God.

All right! You did a fantastic job uncovering the story and applying what you learned to your life. Now don't forget to practice your memory verses!



THE DEADLINE APPROACHES

"Wow!" Max said to Molly. "I am sooooo excited about all we have uncovered for our first news story. Look at what we have discovered about God, Jonah, and what is happening on the ship. Were you surprised that Jonah's actions affected everybody on the ship?"

"I sure was. I never thought about that before. Isn't it cool that God isn't just using this assignment so we can get a great news story? God is going to use it to teach us how we should live and how important it is for us to obey Him."

"But we better hurry," Max replied. "Mr. Chase needs to look at our copy today. We need to talk to God and get on this assignment right away."

All right! Now that we have prayed, let's get started. Mr. Chase needs you to write your story so we can go to print. Turn to page 123 and read Jonah 1:1-9.

WRITING THE STORY

The first thing you need to do when writing is to get the readers' attention. That means you need a good headline. A good headline is short. It lets the reader know what the story is about in just a few words. It also needs to grab the reader's attention.

Think about the main thing that happened in Jonah 1:1-9 and write a headline—a few words that describe the main event—at the top of the newspaper on page 30.

WHAT is the weather like, according to Jonah 1:1-9? To make your story even more eye-catching, draw a picture in the weather box on page 30 to show what the weather is like while they are at sea. Then write the story by filling in the blanks on the newspaper.

Oh, and don't forget: Every great news story needs a picture that captures the event for readers. During the time in history

that Jonah lived, they didn't have cameras so they had to draw pictures. Draw a picture in the box on your newspaper to show the main event that happens in Jonah 1:1-9. You need just the right shot to get your readers' attention.

<h1>NINEVEH NEWS</h1>	
ISSUE 1	
Weather	<h2 style="margin: 0;">BREAKING NEWS!</h2> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">(Put your headline here)</p>
<p>_____ was commanded <small>WHO (Jonah 1:1)</small></p> <p>by _____ to go to _____ <small>WHOM (Jonah 1:1) WHERE (Jonah 1:2)</small></p> <p>to _____ out against it. <small>WHAT (Jonah 1:2)</small></p> <p>But sources say Jonah fled from</p> <p>_____ by going to _____ <small>WHOM (Jonah 1:3) WHERE (Jonah 1:3)</small></p> <p>to get on a ship headed to</p> <p>_____.</p> <small>WHERE (Jonah 1:3)</small> <p>Not long after the ship set</p> <p>sail, the _____ sent a great <small>WHO (Jonah 1:4)</small></p> <p>_____.</p> <small>WHAT (Jonah 1:4)</small> <p>As the waves crashed over-</p> <p>board, the sailors threw the cargo</p> <p>overboard to save the ship. The</p> <p>captain woke Jonah up and told</p> <p>him to call on his God. The sailors</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>decided to cast _____ to find <small>WHAT (Jonah 1:7)</small></p> <p>out why this _____ had <small>WHAT (Jonah 1:7)</small></p> <p>struck. When the lot fell on</p> <p>_____, the sailors asked <small>WHOM (Jonah 1:7)</small></p> <p>him many questions. Jonah told</p> <p>them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear</p> <p>the _____ of heaven <small>WHOM (Jonah 1:9)</small></p> <p>who made the sea and dry land."</p>

Congratulations! We are ready to print!

You have just published your first edition of the *Nineveh News*. What a story! Our readers can't wait to find out what happens next.

Now, say your memory verses out loud to a grown-up.

WHAT evidence did you see in Jonah 1:1-9 that the LORD God does as He pleases?

Isn't God awesome?

"EXTRA! EXTRA!"

Mr. Davis is so proud of all your hard work at writing your first newspaper story that he would like to give you a bonus—something extra that is fun to do. That's why we call it "Extra! Extra!"

Why don't you act out your amazing news story for your friends, family, school, or church? Max and Molly are acting out their story with the kids at church. They want to share some of their creative ideas with you. You can use some of their ideas or come up with your own to act out your story.

Max and Molly's Ideas

Make two signs like arrows—one to point the way to Nineveh and one for Tarshish. Use a rubber boat, a small swimming pool, or a big cardboard box for your ship. Get some medium cardboard boxes or shoe boxes to use as cargo on the ship.

You can use a blue plastic tablecloth for your stormy sea. Have two kids stand at each end of the plastic tablecloth and snap and wiggle it to imitate the storm.

WHAT will the rain sound like?

HOW can you make the wind noises?

Wake Jonah up and cast lots by putting some rocks in a cup and shaking them until one falls out to discover who is causing the storm.

Be creative and have fun!

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Page 12

“For I know that the LORD is great and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.”

Psalm 135:5-6

Page 34

“The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.”

Psalm 145:18-19

Page 38

D	D	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	Y
E	E	H	C	A	M	O	T	S	D	T	M
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OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

JONAH

Chapter 1

- 1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,
- 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”
- 3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
- 4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.
- 5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.
- 6 So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.”
- 7 Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.
- 8 Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”
- 9 He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”
- 10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.

12 He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”

13 However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.

14 Then they called on the LORD and said, “We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased.”

15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Chapter 2

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

2 And he said,

“I called out of my distress to the LORD,

And He answered me.

I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;

You heard my voice.

3 “For You had cast me into the deep,

Into the heart of the seas,

And the current engulfed me.

All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

4 “So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight.

Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

- 5 "Water encompassed me to the point of death.
The great deep engulfed me,
Weeds were wrapped around my head.
- 6 "I descended to the roots of the mountains.
The earth with its bars was around me forever,
But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.
- 7 "While I was fainting away,
I remembered the LORD,
And my prayer came to You,
Into Your holy temple.
- 8 "Those who regard vain idols
Forsake their faithfulness,
- 9 But I will sacrifice to You,
With the voice of thanksgiving.
That which I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation is from the LORD."
- 10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Chapter 3

- 1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
- 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."
- 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.
- 4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."
- 5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.
- 6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.

7 He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.

8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.

9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Chapter 4

1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

2 He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."

4 The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

5 Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

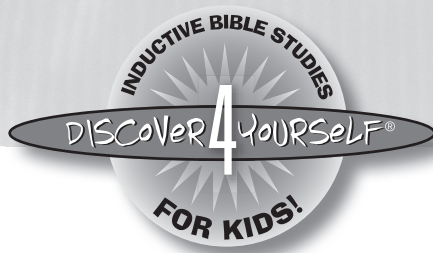
7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.

8 When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

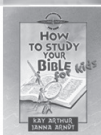
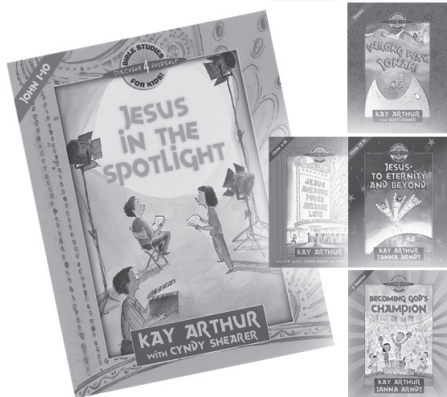
9 Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."

10 Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"



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