

Bringing the
BIBLE
LIFE



Level 6, Quarter A
Disciple Guide Sample (Lesson 4)

THINK!

Jonah 1-2



The third step of inductive Bible study **engages your brain.**

- Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*).
- Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as necessary.
- Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”

You make language **colorful** by using figures of speech when you talk and write. **“Figures”** are words or phrases that would be ridiculous if interpreted according to the exact “literal” dictionary meaning.

- ➡ For example: **“My heart is broken.”** If taken *literally*, this means: “The organ that pumps blood through my body has split into pieces.”
- ➡ But the *figurative* meaning is: “I’m experiencing deep emotional pain because someone I care about rejected me.”

When do you interpret a word or phrase **literally** or as a **figure of speech**?

Guideline: Interpret sensibly—seek the most sensible, straightforward meaning. The most sensible meaning may be literal or figurative.

If a passage makes sense literally,

DO / DO NOT

look for a figurative meaning.

>>> Draw a picture of the literal meaning of “My heart is broken.”

Ask and Answer

Write down your questions about Jonah 1-2.
Use Bible reference tools to help you find the answers.

WHO?

Which people are involved? Follow their actions.

Who threw Jonah into the water (Jonah 1:15 vs.2:3)?

WHAT?

Understand what each word or phrase means

What made Nineveh so "great" (1:2)?

WHEN?

Note all time references.

How long was Jonah in the water before the fish came (2:6)?

WHERE?

Determine places and geography.

Where did Jonah finally land (2:10)?

WHY?

Learn about motives, reasons, and needs.

Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh (1:3)?

HOW?

What process is revealed?

How did Jonah survive inside a fish (2:1)?

GOD WELCOMES
OUR QUESTIONS!



Find the Figures

The Bible contains many examples of colorful (figurative) language. Write a sensible meaning for each phrase.

VERSE PHRASE

ACTUAL MEANING

1:1 “the Word of the LORD came”

1:9 “I fear the LORD”

1:14 “do not put innocent blood on us”

2:2 “from the depth of Sheol”

2:4 “look again to the Temple”

2:6 “the earth barred me”

Heart
Beat

To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means!

Consider the incredible, imagination-stretching “fish story” in Jonah.

Did it actually happen? Did Jonah exaggerate or make up the story?

Could Jonah have been swallowed by a real fish—and live to tell about it?

>> What do I think? What is the sensible, straightforward meaning?
Does Jonah’s fish story make literal sense, or is it a figure of speech?

Literal

Figurative

Not Sure

>> Evidence and reasons for my answer:

Explore Bible Cross-References

Most Bibles have cross-references on every page. Cross-references show you where to look for more information. They link verses together, leading you from one verse to others like it.

1. See if your Bible has cross-references. (Look for very small numbers and letters that usually appear between columns or on the left or right side of each page.)
2. Look up the cross-references for your favorite Bible verse or your KeyVerse—John 16:13. What new insights did you receive?

The word of the LORD came to Jonah^a son of Amittai:^b 2“Go to the great city of Nineveh^c and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

1:1
^aMt 12:39-41;
16:4
^b2 Ki 14:25
2:2
^c5 Gen 10:11;
5 Na 1:1

Class Code:



What word means
“to live with” or
“be with”?

Find the answer at
DiscipleZone.com/6A4

