

Simple Literature No. 59: Curriculum for
Jonah and the Big Fish

by S. Seifert

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How to Use This Curriculum

- 1.** Have students read this book for 20 to 30 minutes each day.
- 2.** When students have finished the book, ask the **Comprehension Questions**. A study guide worksheet is available for practice, but an oral discussion is appropriate for this age group.
- 3.** When you have finished discussing the comprehension questions, have students **Write a Paragraph**. Students should write in complete sentences, spell words correctly, capitalize the first letter of every sentence, and place a period at the end of each sentence.
- 4.** Although these guidelines work for this age group, remember that your students are individuals. Therefore, adjust the curriculum to your students' abilities and personalities.

Did you find something confusing, or are you excited about the curricula? You can contact us through <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id51.html>.

Although the number of e-mails received does not allow me to respond personally, every e-mail is read and appreciated.

If you want to view an alphabetical list of titles that have free comprehension questions, go to <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id50.html>.

S. Seifert

Curriculum for *Jonah and the Big Fish* from *The Beginner's Bible* by Zonderkidz

OVERVIEW

1. Have students read for 20 to 30 minutes.
Reading for half an hour, and not a completed book, is the daily goal. A study guide for this book is available. If you assign it, let students complete the study guide while they are reading the book.
2. When students have finished reading the book, ask the comprehension questions (study guide questions). If you assigned the written study guide, students may read their answers from it.
3. Prompt students to write a paragraph.

SUMMARY

God asks Jonah to go to Nineveh. He wants Jonah to tell the people to stop doing bad things, but Jonah doesn't want to go. He hides on a boat that is not going to Nineveh. A terrible storm almost sinks the ship. The men on the crew realize that the only way to stop the storm is by throwing Jonah overboard. Once Jonah is off the ship and in the water, the storm ends. A big fish swallows Jonah. Inside the fish, Jonah repents for not doing what God told him to do. When the fish spits him out on dry land, Jonah goes to Nineveh and tells the people to stop doing bad things. The people of Nineveh obey Jonah and repent.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. God had a mission for Jonah. What did Jonah do when God told him to go to Nineveh? Jonah ran away. He left on a boat that was not going to Nineveh. Let students consider why Jonah would do this since Jonah loved God. Once students suggest ideas, let them know that Jonah did not like the Ninevites. They had been mean to and were the enemies of the Jews. Jonah was afraid they would repent. He didn't want God to forgive them. He wanted those mean people to be destroyed.

2. Jonah was in a boat during a bad storm. He knew God sent the storm to stop him. Why didn't Jonah jump out of the boat? Jonah did not know a big fish would save him. When people are thrown into deep water in the middle of a storm, they usually die. Jonah did not want to die, but he did not want the others in the boat to die either. So he told them to throw him overboard if they wanted to save themselves.
3. Jonah did not want to do what God wanted him to do. What changed Jonah's mind? A storm and a big fish changed Jonah's mind. The storm kept Jonah from running away, and a big fish took him toward Nineveh.
4. Jonah went where God wanted him to go. He told people to stop doing bad things. What did the people do? The people of Nineveh repented and stopped doing bad things.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *Jonah and the Big Fish* to their own lives by writing a paragraph: Jonah was inside a big fish for three days and nights. Pretend you're Jonah and describe what the inside of a big fish looks, smells, sounds, and feels like. Then explain what you ate and drank in there.

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for
Jonah and the Big Fish by *The Beginner's Bible* from Zonderkidz

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. God had a mission for Jonah. What did Jonah do when God told him to go to Nineveh?

2. Jonah was in a boat during a bad storm. He knew God sent the storm to stop him. Why didn't Jonah jump out of the boat?

3. Jonah did not want to do what God wanted him to do. What changed Jonah's mind?

4. Jonah went where God wanted him to go. He told people to stop doing bad things. What did the people do?