OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JONAH

1. Read the Book of Jonah. Try to find natural divisions in the narrative and give brief subtitles to these small sections. Try to see how the smaller sections might fit into larger ones. Give the larger sections subtitles as well.
2. Read the book again, this time taking note of any unusual words or phrases, and of people or places. Use a Bible dictionary to find out more about these words, people, places and their cultural contexts.
3. Try to find out what this book teaches about God, about people and about his servants. Why do you think the author sought to convey these things?
4. Try to find a key verse of the whole book and explain why this verse is key.
5. How do you think this book speaks to believers and to our world today?

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* 1. Read chapters 1 and 2. Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh, and why did Jonah run away?
  2. Where did the violent storm come from? Why was Jonah sleeping during the storm?
  3. Why did Jonah get thrown overboard? What can we learn about these sailors?
  4. What was the point of Jonah’s prayer inside the great fish, and how did God respond to this prayer? What lessons can we learn from these chapters?