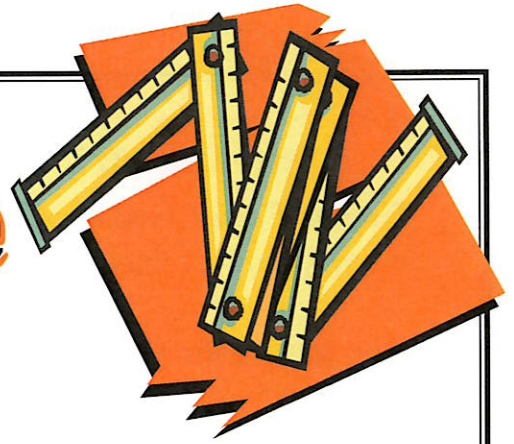


Measuring By God's Rule



Lesson 10

Jonah — a Prophet to Nineveh

Theme: Obedience — Punishment and repentance

Memory Verse

“And Josiah removed all the disgusting idols from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the Lord their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the Lord God of their fathers.”

2 Chronicles 34:33

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Deuteronomy 18:15-22
Friday	1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21
Saturday	Jonah 1 & 2
Monday	Jonah 3
Tuesday	Jonah 4

Prophets in Old Testament times were men who spoke for God to kings and people. God guided the prophets in what they said so that their word was God's word. The Old Testament books Isaiah through Malachi are books written by prophets. Other prophets, such as Elijah and Elisha, spoke their messages, but their words were not written down.

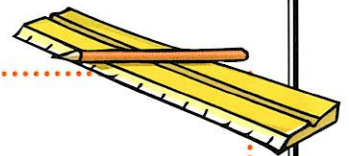
The main work of prophets was to turn people to God. This work was not

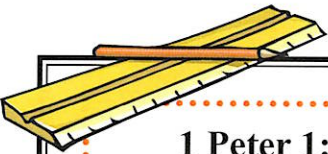
Deuteronomy 18:15-22

A prophet's work was to:

People would know when a prophet was not speaking in the name of the Lord because:

- God would strike him dead
- His words would not come true
- He would break out in leprosy





1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

True or False? God allowed His prophets to say whatever they wanted.

Who guided the prophets in speaking their messages?

easy because most people did not like the message and would not listen. Sometimes people tried to stop the prophet from speaking. A faithful prophet would speak God's word whether or not people wanted to hear it.

God Sent Jonah to Nineveh

Nineveh was a great city of Assyria, but its people were wicked. God called Jonah to be a prophet and told him to go to Nineveh and warn

them about their evil ways. Jonah was an Israelite, not an Assyrian. Jonah did not care about the people of Nineveh, because they were Assyrians. He did not want to deliver God's message to them. Instead of obeying God, Jonah got on a ship and tried to run away.

While Jonah was on the ship, God caused a storm to come up at sea. The sailors on the ship thought God must be punishing someone by the storm. They found out that Jonah was running away from God and were afraid their ship would be destroyed. The sailors threw Jonah into the sea, and immediately the storm stopped.

God caused a large fish to swallow Jonah, but Jonah did not die. Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of the fish; he thought a lot about what he had done. He prayed to God and asked for help. God commanded the fish to spit Jonah out onto the dry land.

Nineveh Repented

God told Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh. This time, Jonah went to the wicked city and preached God's message. He warned the people they would be destroyed if they did not change their evil ways. The people of Nineveh listened to the word Jonah spoke from God and repented of their sins. They decided to turn from their evil and follow God. God decided not to destroy the city of Nineveh.



Jonah 1 & 2

God wanted His prophet, Jonah, to go:

- Fishing
- To Nineveh to preach
- To Tarshish to preach

What did Jonah do about God's instructions?

While Jonah was in the fish's belly, he:

- Prayed
- Cried
- Shouted angrily

Jonah was not happy with what happened. He had run away to begin with because he did not want God to show mercy to Nineveh. He wanted God to destroy the people of Nineveh. He did not want God to give them a chance to change.

Jonah needed to learn that all people are important to God. God loves and cares for everyone. God wants all people to be His people. Every person in the world needs God's message and God's mercy.

God had to teach Jonah a lesson about mercy. Jonah liked it when God showed mercy to him, but Jonah did not want God to show mercy to others. Jonah needed to learn that all people are important to God and need His mercy.

God Speaks to Us

Today we do not have prophets who speak the word of God to us directly. But we do have the messages of God's prophets in our Bibles. When we want to

know what God wants us to do, we can pick up His Word and read it. No one today is guided by God as prophets were. Each of us needs to study God's Word to make sure the things our parents, teachers, and preachers tell us are true. Even though we have no prophets to talk to us, the words of God still guide us to follow Him.

Jonah 4

How did God want Jonah to think and feel about Nineveh?

Jonah 3

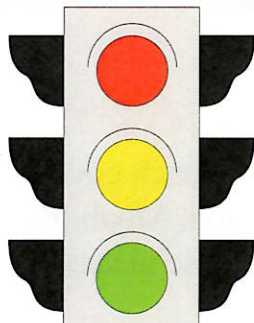
True or False? The people of Nineveh did not listen to the warning which Jonah brought from the Lord.

Did God destroy the city of Nineveh?

Yes

No

I think people are too bad to deserve God's mercy.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

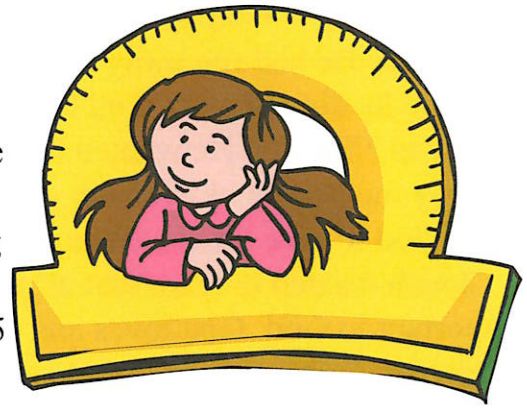
Red — often

Yellow — sometimes

Green — never

Think About It...

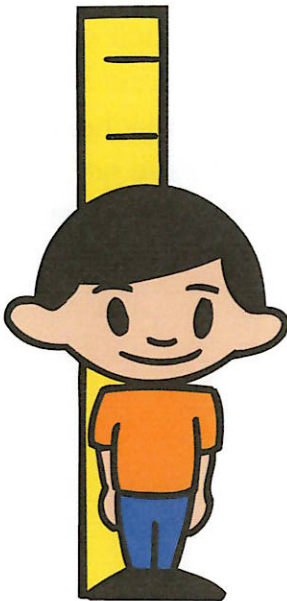
Your best friend has trouble keeping her feet still. She sits right beside you in class. You got a new pair of shoes and don't want to get them dirty. While moving her feet around, she stepped on one of your new shoes. She apologized, so what will you do? About 15 minutes later, she does it again and apologizes. What will you do this time? It happens a third time! Now what will you do?



Measure What You Know!

Which book in the Old Testament is about spying out the Promised Land and wandering in the Wilderness?

Write the names of the twelve sons of Jacob.



On a map inside the back cover, locate the places Israel's enemies lived: Edom, Ammon, Moab, Philistia, Assyria/Babylon/Persia. Be prepared to show these places on a map in class.