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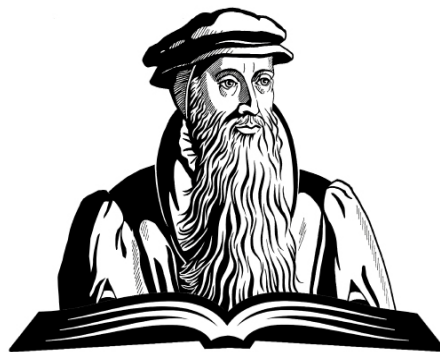
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 105

Jonah's Mission

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
- 105. Jonah's Mission**
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 105

Jonah's Mission

Jonah, chapters 1 to 4

Memory Verse

“Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?”
—Jonah 3:9

The Ninevites Repent

After the whale vomited out Jonah, and the Lord repeated his commission, Jonah obediently headed to Nineveh. Jonah must have been filled with admiration and revulsion when he entered the city. What a huge city! What a dreadfully wicked city! As Jonah walked through the busy streets and into crowded markets, he began to cry out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” Everywhere, startled people stopped, stared, and were suddenly struck with a strange fear. As Jonah continued on, repeating his frightening message, the Ninevites keenly felt that the message of this strange prophet was no idle threat, but a message from an angry God about to destroy them for their sins. When the Assyrian king heard the message, he too was seized with fear, and commanded, “Let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let him turn everyone from his evil way....Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not” (Jonah 3:8, 9).

The Ninevites realized a little about God's justice and sovereignty. Their repentance could not make up for their sins. But, who can tell! And indeed, after forty days, the Ninevites whose repentance had been in truth must have wept with gratitude and love when they realized that “God repented of the evil he had said he would do unto them, and he did it not” (Jonah 3:10).

God Teaches Jonah

Jonah was shocked at the effect of his preaching. He was also horrified! “It displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.” He cried out, “Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil” (Jonah 4:2). Yes, Jonah knew this from experience. God had spared him from a dreadful drowning death. But these vile Ninevites? Oh, why could this not be the fruit of his preaching among his own people? How could he ever face them again? They would slander him, perhaps even call him a lying prophet whose words did not come to pass (Deut. 18:22). And what about God's covenant? Was it not with Abraham and his seed? How could the Ninevites have any part in this? Jonah was so perplexed and angry, he even wished he was dead.

As Jonah left the city, he suddenly had a hopeful thought. Probably the repentance of these

Ninevites would be very short-lived, and the Lord would still destroy the city! With this thought in mind, Jonah went a safe distance from the city and found a spot where he had a good view. He made himself a booth for some shade, and sat down to see what would become of the city. The next morning Jonah was surprised to find that a tall gourd with very large leaves had grown overnight, and was shading him completely! Jonah was now quite comfortable. He was “exceeding glad” (Jonah 4:6). The very next morning however, Jonah woke up to find dead leaves all around him. A worm had killed the gourd! That day was extremely hot, so that Jonah “fainted, and wished in himself to die.” Suddenly the Lord asked Jonah, “doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?” “I do well to be angry, even unto death,” Jonah replied.

Thankfully the Lord did not leave Jonah there to die in his bitterness. The Lord showed Jonah his extreme foolishness: having pity on a gourd, but wishing destruction upon so many precious souls, including little children—“Six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left-hand; and also much cattle” (Jonah 4:11). Just like the self-righteous Pharisees in the days of the Lord Jesus, and the elder son in the parable of the prodigal son, Jonah fought against the idea of free grace, until God showed him how much he needed it himself! Only then could he understand that “Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

Review Questions

1. Four times in the book of Jonah we read that God “prepared” something. Look up these texts and write down what they are.

Jonah 1:17 _____

Jonah 4:6 _____

Jonah 4:7 _____

Jonah 4:8 _____

2. According to Psalm 10:17, what else does the Lord prepare? _____

3. In chapter 3, what is the only fact we read about the size of Nineveh? _____

4. What five things did the king of Nineveh do when he heard Jonah’s message?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

5. Jonah said that he fled to Tarshish because he knew five things about the Lord. What things were they?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

6. In chapter 4, which question did the Lord ask Jonah twice? _____

7. How does Jonah respond the first time? _____

How did he respond the second time? _____

8. If a score is twenty, how many young children were there in Nineveh? (Jonah 4:11) _____

Discussion Questions

1. In Luke 11:32, why did the Lord Jesus say that the people of Nineveh would rise up in judgment against the Jews of that generation?

2. Would the people of Nineveh rise up in judgment against us if we do not repent? How so?

3. What keeps people from repenting? Think of three things. _____

4. Jonah had pity on a plant, but cared little about the lives of the people of Nineveh, including children and animals. Why are we sometimes more moved by trivial things than by the needs of lost people? _____