

## Instructions for Group Leaders

Included in this lesson plan are notes and resources for you. The questions listed are to be used as a help to guide and encourage your group conversation. You are free to improvise through the questions as the conversation takes you. Do your best to involve everyone in the discussion as some may dominate conversation and others may hide.

Your main role as a Home Group leader is to build community and make disciples, not to teach. Teaching will be a natural element of discussion, but allow the questions to move your members toward understanding the concept of the passage and message.

Remember to review your resources for leading a discussion. Those techniques will help you to build a involved and caring atmosphere as well as challenge you as you serve and lead your group.

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Attached is an outline of the study for the trimester. Listed first is a set of passages for you to read before your first meeting. Studying these passages will help you to know the context of the passage and prepare you to respond to questions.

Your outline will show you the passage for the week and the themes to be discussed. Be sure to review the passage and questions before each meeting.

Your lesson each week is only expected to last 30-40 minutes. These study discussions should be only one element of your home group community. Make sure to also allow time for laughter, history telling (getting to know each other), prayer, service, etc.

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After the outline, you'll find your weekly breakdown of passages and questions. Each lesson will list the passages to read for that meeting as well as a list of questions to ask the group. For your convenience, the questions will be marked as what type of question they are. Each type of question serves a unique purpose.

*Observation Questions:* Helps the group discover context, people, actions that are literally taking place in the passage. Helps the group set a foundation to discuss the themes. These questions are great for involving individuals who are typically quite or cautious about sharing.

*Interpretation Questions:* Helps the group discover what is meant by the writer. Understanding what the writer was saying to his audience is an invaluable element of understanding the message being given. It cannot mean something to us today that it did not mean to the audience it was written to. It can however be applied uniquely to each reader. (See Application Questions)

*Application Questions:* Helps the group make the passage being discussed personally relevant to current circumstances. These questions move the reader beyond knowledge to a place where they can let the Holy Spirit transform their life.

*Each question is abbreviated as: Obs., Int., or App.*

*Facilitator Outline: Jonah (Evangelism)*

3 Weeks

**Note for Group Facilitator:** Before beginning this session, it would be helpful to read the whole book of Jonah on your own to bring clarity and context to your lessons.

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Lesson 1: Read Chapter 1

1. Obs: What did God ask Jonah to do?
  2. Int: Why do you think Jonah decided to disobey? What was he afraid of?
  3. App: Can you recall a time when the Lord asked you to do something, but you thought the request was unreasonable?
  4. Obs: What happened to Jonah once he ran away from the Lord?
  5. Int: Why did God use such drastic measures to get Jonah to obey? Why not just find someone else?
  6. Int: What does this passage show us about God's heart for evangelism?
  7. App: How has God spoken to you recently about sharing his Good News with someone?
  8. App: While you most likely won't be swallowed by a whale, what might be the consequences of disobedience?
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Lesson 2: Read Chapters 2-3

1. Obs: What did Jonah do while he was in the whale?
  2. Int: What does Jonah's encounter with God tell you about God's character?
  3. Int: Why was it important that God give Jonah a second chance?
  4. Obs: What happened when Jonah shared God's message?
  5. App: Could you talk about a time when you shared about the Lord with someone?
  6. Int: Based on this passage, how does God respond to repentant people?
  7. App: Share about a time when you felt God reached out to you because of your repentance.
  8. App: How could you share this experience with someone to illustrate "salvation"?
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Lesson 3: Read Chapter 4

1. Obs: Why was Jonah angry with the Lord?
2. Int: What was God's heart for the Ninevites?
3. Int: What was Jonah's heart for the Ninevites?
4. App: How has God helped you to love lost people like he does?
5. App: When have you found it difficult to share the Gospel because for your dislike for the person?
6. Int: What did the vine illustrate about Jonah's attitude?
7. Int: Why do you think Jonah found it easier to love a weed than to love the Ninevites?
8. App: How could you maintain your priorities for others and not yourself?