

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Introduction to the Books of Jonah and Nahum

[1] What must we remember as we think about the content of prophetic books?

[2] What superpower did Jonah deal with?

II. Book of Jonah

A. Jonah's Flight from God (Jonah 1:1–16)

[3] What was the capital city of Assyria?

[4] Why was God's call to Jonah a normal call?

[5] What did God call Jonah to do?

[6] More specifically, what was Jonah's task?

[7] What is the difference between preaching against and preaching to?

[8] Why was Jonah so resistant to God's call to preach to Nineveh?

[9] What was Jonah trying to accomplish with his journey to the "open ocean"?

[10] What theological error was involved in Jonah's thinking?

[11] Have you ever used this kind of reasoning?

[12] When confronted by the sailors about his view of God, how did Jonah respond?

[13] What happened when the disobedient prophet responded obediently?

B. Thanksgiving Inside the Great Fish (Jonah 1:17–2:10)

[14] What does Dr. Stuart believe about the much-maligned biblical story of Jonah being swallowed by a great fish?

[15] What was the nature of Jonah's response to God while he was in the fish's stomach?

C. Repentance of the Ninevites (Jonah 3:1–10)

[16] Did Dr. Stuart prefer the translation “a three-day journey” or “a three-day visit” in Jonah 3?

[17] What is the difference in meaning between the two translations?

[18] Which translation fits better in the culture of Jonah’s time?

[19] Did Nineveh’s citizens convert to a belief in Jonah’s God and worship Him?

[20] What are some of the events that contributed to Jonah’s effective mission to Nineveh?

D. No Thanksgiving Outside Nineveh (Jonah 4:1–11)

[21] How do the events of Jonah 4 relate chronologically to the events of Jonah 3?

[22] To whom would Jonah direct his anger about his plan?

[23] How do chapters 2 and 4 of Jonah relate? What is their common theme?

[24] Would you say Jonah's responses in the two chapters would best be seen as being comparable or in contrast? Why?

[25] Did Jonah want his God-given mission to succeed or fail?

[26] What insight did God want Jonah to gain from his anger about the plant?

[27] What is the further, or larger, lesson God wants to teach us through Jonah's response to Nineveh?

III. Book of Nahum

[28] What do the books of Jonah and Nahum have in common?

A. Acrostic Poem: God's Majesty and Judgment (Nahum 1:1–15)

[29] What is an acrostic poem?

[30] What does Nahum's poem reveal theologically?

[31] What is the particular emphasis of Nahum's poem?

[32] What two views or aspects of God are revealed in Nahum 1?

[33] How did Dr. Stuart answer his question, "What is going on here?"

[34] In contrast to Jonah who preached to Nineveh's citizens, to whom did Nahum deliver his message?

[35] Why was Nahum talking to his audience about Nineveh's destruction? What purpose did Nahum's ministry serve?

[36] For what evil did God destroy Nineveh?

[37] What was God's message to Judah about Nineveh?

B. Siege and Sack of Nineveh (Nahum 2:1–13)

[38] What did Nahum describe in chapter 2 of his prophecy?

[39] What nation's armies destroyed Nineveh?

[40] Who was ultimately responsible for Nineveh's defeat?

C. Description of Nineveh (Nahum 3:1–19)

[41] Why did Nahum compare Nineveh with Thebes in Nahum 3?

[42] What message did God convey through the Nineveh/Thebes comparison?

[43] In the final analysis, what do we learn about God from Nahum's message to Judah about Nineveh?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Compare Jonah's response to his enormous problem in chapter 2 with his response in chapter 4 to his petty problem. Why do great tragedies and/or cataclysmic problems tend to drive us to God while silly, petty annoyances aggravate us and often raise doubts about God's goodness and love? Wouldn't it be wiser to turn all our pressures over to His sovereign care? What does it take for God to get your attention?