

Sefer Yonah - Part 1 - Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sefer Yonah seems like a fairy tale, about a man who lives inside the body of a fish for a few days. However, this incident is only a minor episode of the story and by focusing exclusively on it, we miss out on other messages of *Sefer Yonah*. In this lesson, we will examine the argument between God and Yonah and the lesson that God was trying to teach him. From this, we will understand why this story is read and studied on Yom Kippur.

Your objectives in this episode are to understand:

- a) The different attempts that Yonah makes to try and defy God.
- b) The argument between God and Yonah.
- c) One of the messages of *Sefer Yonah*.
- d) The connection between *Sefer Yonah* and Yom Kippur.

Answer the following questions, quoting from the text to prove your answer.

Question 1:

Read through [Sefer Yonah 1:1-2:2](#) and pay attention to the way the conflict between God and Yonah is expressed. Fill in the table below:

Verses	God's Instruction/Action	Yonah's Reaction	Implications
1:1-3			
1:4-5			
1:6			
1:7-12			
2:1-2			

Question 2:

a) Summarize how the conflict between God and Yonah manifested itself.

b) What was Yonah arguing about according to the verses? Explain.

Question 3:

Read [Chapter 3](#). What evidence is there from verses 1-2, that Yonah still does not want to go ahead with his mission?

Question 4:

a) Describe how Yonah informs the people of Nineveh of God's message.

b) How do the people of Nineveh react to Yonah's message?

c) What convinces God that the people of Nineveh had done teshuva? Explain.

Question 5:

Explain Yonah's reaction to God's decision.

Question 6:

Read [Chapter 4](#). In verses 1-2, Yonah explains why he tried to avoid doing his mission. Read the verses carefully and answer the following questions.

a) Explain Yonah's reason for arguing with God.

b) What do you think Yonah would have preferred to see happen? Explain.

Question 7:

a) Explain the story of the "kikayon."

b) How does God use this "kikayon" to explain why He forgave Nineveh?

Question 8:

Does Yonah accept God's argument? Explain.

Question 9:

Using the information learned in this unit, explain why *Sefer Yonah* is an important book to read on Yom Kippur.

Question 10:

Sefer Yonah indirectly teaches us about God's control of the world. Describe them, using the table below:

Verses	Episode	God's Majesty
1:4 & 15	The storm	God controls the sea and weather
1:7	The lottery	
2:1 & 11		
4:6		
4:7		
4:8		
4:11		

Question 11:

a) What is the only creature that God does not control in *Sefer Yonah*?

b) Using this information, explain the extra message *Sefer Yonah* tries to teach us.
