

## Sefer Yonah - 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 develop a more nuanced understanding:

- 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	Personal Notes (after reading the text)	Final Implications (after classroom discussion)
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.

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

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**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? How do both judgment and mercy play a part?

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**Question 4:**

a) Quote from the text what Yonah said and where he said God's message to Nineveh.

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b) List the things the people did in reaction to Yonah's statement.

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c) List the things that the king did in reaction to Yonah's statement.

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d) Identify what part of the king's decree highlights the seriousness of the matter.

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e) What convinces God that the people of Nineveh had done *teshuvah*? Explain.

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**Question 5:**

What was Yonah's reaction—what does the text say he did and how he felt about it? Why do you think he responded that way?

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**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.

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

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c) Look at the original "13 *middot* of *rachamim*" (attributes of mercy) [here](#) and compare them with what Yonah says - what differences do you see?

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**Question 7:**

a) Summarize the story of the “*kikayon*” in your own words.

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b) How does God use this “*kikayon*” to explain why He forgave Nineveh?

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**Question 8:**

Using the text, describe Yonah’s reaction to God’s explanation of what has happened to the *kikayon*. Do you think Yonah accepts God’s explanation? Explain your answer. Why do you think he reacts this way?

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**Question 9:**

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

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**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*?

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

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