

**Historical Background:** The book of Jonah seems to begin suddenly (The word of the Lord came to Jonah - Jonah 1:1). We find in 2 Kings that Jonah was a prophet of God.

- Jonah's prophetic experience
  - In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. **24** And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. **25** He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:23-25)
- What does Jonah's name mean?
  - Jonah means dove and Amittai means truth

How does Jonah's experience as a prophet of God put the events of this book into perspective?

Biblically names are often significant. They can symbolize a hope or future, they can describe character, they teach a lesson or make a statement.

**Jonah Chapter 1:** Spend some time reading through Jonah 1. Write down any questions or thoughts about this chapter.

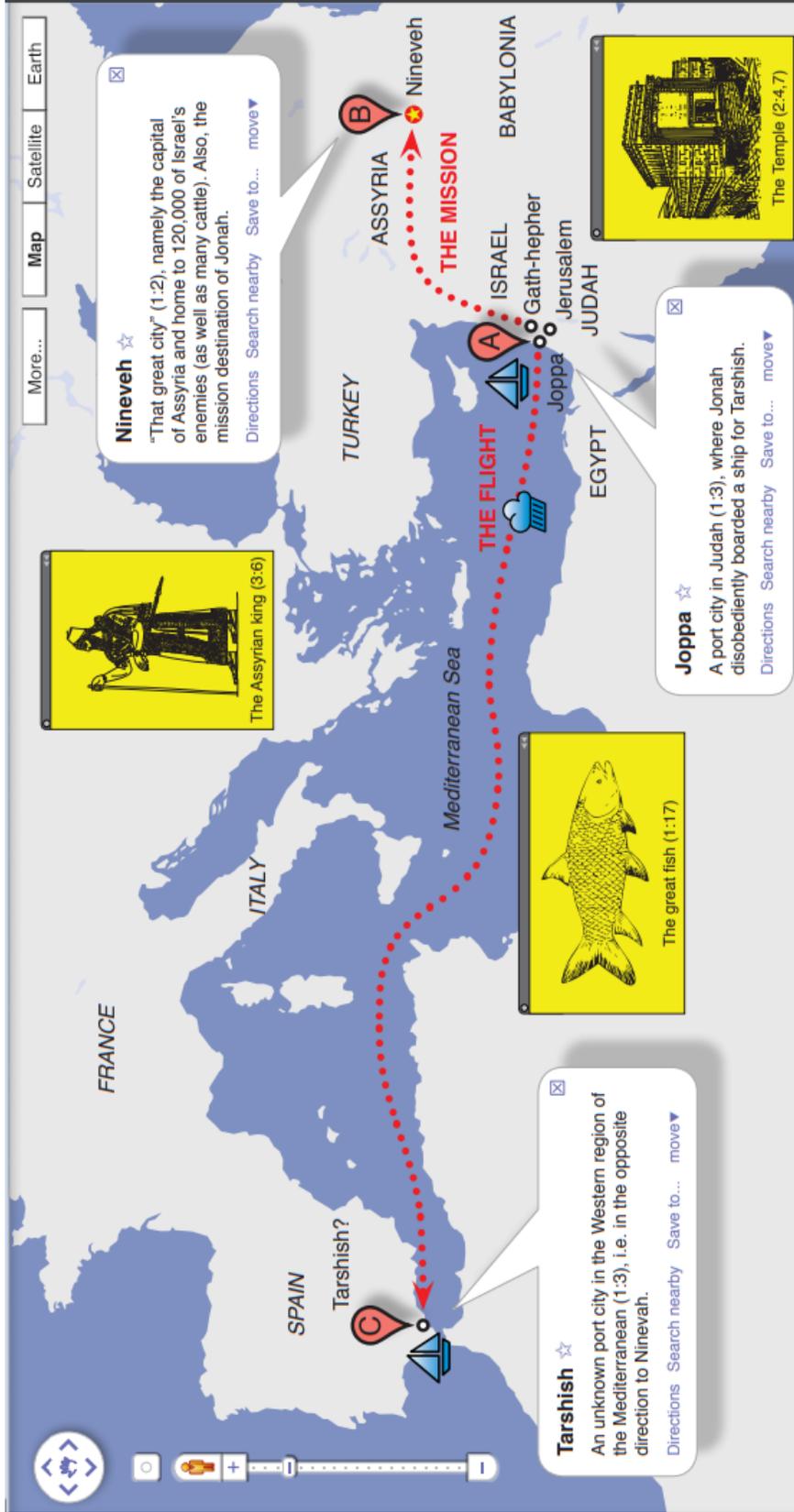
Why do you think Jonah disobeys God? What are some reasons we might use to avoid sharing the gospel?

What do you think is significant about the phrase "away from the presence of the Lord"? (Jonah 1:3)

How do you see God at work in the events of Jonah chapter 1? (List them out)

In Jonah 1:9, Jonah reveals that he serves the Lord. How is he being both sincere and hypocritical? What is the difference between belief and practice? How do we often struggle to put our beliefs into practice?

**Jonah and Jesus:** Jesus did perfectly what Jonah also (if temporarily) accomplished: both were from Galilee; Jonah struggled with his call to preach, Jesus struggled to do the will of the Father (in the desert, at Gethsemane); both preached God's message of judgement and reconciliation to the marginalized and to sinners; both chose death forsaken by others; both bore and removed the consequences of sin from others; both caused the storm to cease after sleeping through it (Jonah through repentance and Jesus through divinity); Jonah entered the jaws of the fish, Jesus entered the jaws of the grave; both were kept for three days; both were raised up again by the Father; Jonah's obedience in preaching led to the conversion of a great city, and Jesus' obedience led to the conversion of many cultures of the world. (James Bruckner - *Jonah*)



More...

Map

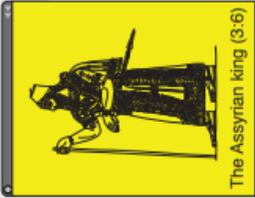
Satellite

Earth

**Nineveh** ☆

"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move ▾



The Assyrian king (3:6)

**Tarshish** ☆

An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Nineveh.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move ▾



The great fish (1:17)

**Joppa** ☆

A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobediently boarded a ship for Tarshish.

Directions Search nearby Save to... move ▾



The Temple (2:4,7)

**THE MISSION**

**THE FLIGHT**

TURKEY

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

ISRAEL

Gath-hepher

Jerusalem

JUDAH

Joppa

EGYPT

Mediterranean Sea

ITALY

FRANCE

SPAIN

Tarshish?

