

**WRONG WAY,
JONAH!**

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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

EUGENE, OREGON

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Illustrations © 2009 by Steve Bjorkman

Cover by Left Coast Design, Portland, Oregon

WRONG WAY, JONAH!

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Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-2819-9

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Printed in the United States of America

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 /ML-NI/ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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STORMY SEAS



JONAH 1:1-9

“We’re glad you’re here!” Max called out. “Are you ready to uncover a very important news story so the world can learn about God and His prophet named Jonah?” Max paused for a breath.

“This is going to be so cool. Newspapers help people find out what is going on in the world. Mr. Davis, the publisher of our daily newspaper, is going to let us help out at his paper so we can learn from the pros how to gather the news and make our own newspaper, the *Nineveh News*.”

“We want to make sure everyone knows this incredible story about Jonah. So grab your pens and paper. Molly, get Sam’s leash. Let’s head downtown so we can get started on our first assignment.”



OUR ASSIGNMENT

“Hi, Mr. Davis,” Molly announced, “we’re here. Uh-oh, Max... you better grab Sam’s leash. He just saw Mr. Davis. *Whew!* You got him in the nick of time to save Mr. Davis from a face-licking!”

“Hi, kids.” Mr. Davis smiled as he patted Sam’s head. “Yes, I have heard all about you too, Sam! Are you ready to get started, Max and Molly?”

“We sure are!”

“Great! Then let’s head over to meet Mr. Chase, the head of our editorial department.”

“Mr. Chase, this is Max and Molly, and their famous face-licking detective beagle, Sam.”

“It’s great to meet you. Hi, Sam—I have heard all about you.” Mr. Chase chuckled as he reached down to meet Sam.

“Oh, no! He got you!” Max exclaimed. “Sorry about that, Mr. Chase.”



“That’s okay, Max. I knew he was fast, but not that fast.”

The kids started laughing as Sam barked his agreement and wagged his tail.

“Okay, the first thing you need to do to get started on your newspaper is to decide what you want to write about and gather the facts so you can write a great news story,” Mr. Chase said.

"After you finish writing your story, I will make sure it is accurate before you go to print. Do you guys have a lead on a good front-page story?"

"We sure do!" Max answered. "We are going to investigate the book of Jonah to find out what is happening with one of God's prophets and one of Israel's enemies."

"That sounds like a great lead story," Mr. Chase replied. "Do you know what you need to do first?"

Molly smiled. "We know."

How about you, rookie reporter? Do you know what you need to do before you open your Bible and begin your investigation?

"The first thing you need to do is to talk to God," Mr. Chase reminded them. "The Bible calls this prayer! Bible study should *always* begin with prayer. You need to ask God to be your Master Editor—to direct you by His Holy Spirit so you can understand what the Bible says and handle it accurately."

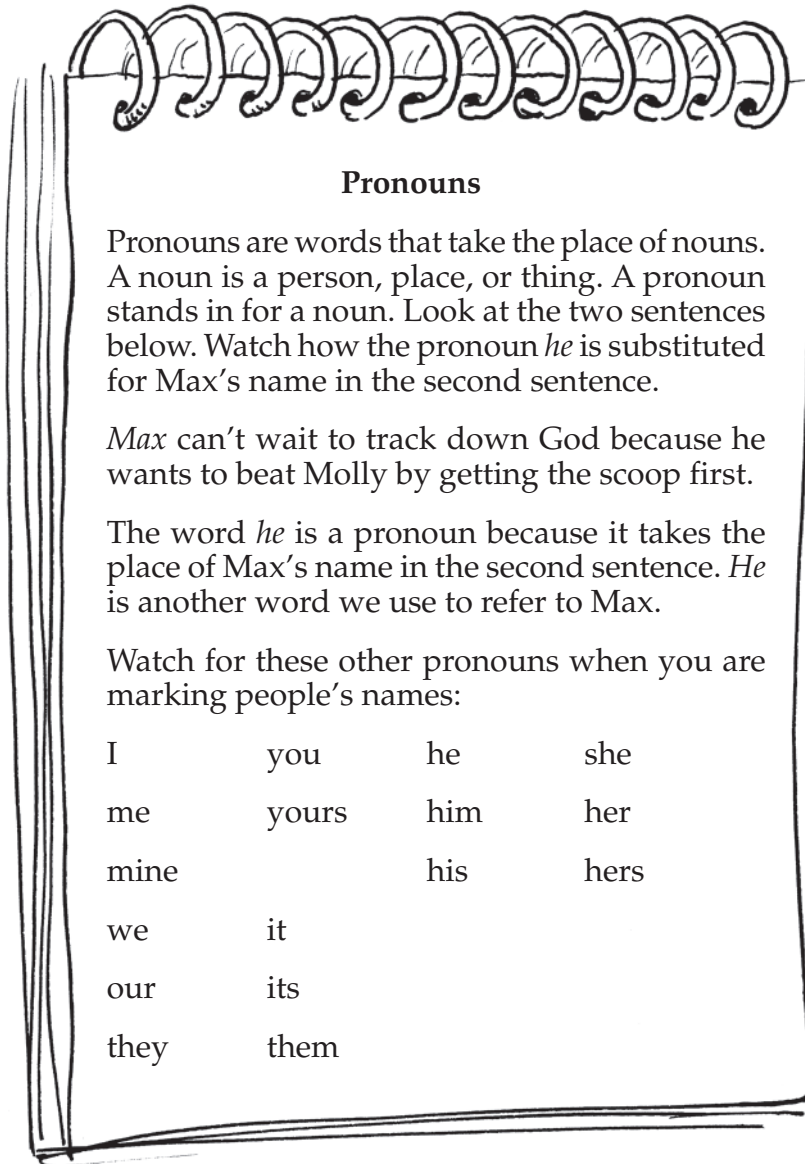
"Let's pray and ask God for His help as we get ready for our first assignment for the *Nineveh News*," Max said.

They all prayed together.

"I am so proud of you!" Mr. Chase exclaimed. "Now that you have prayed, the next step in becoming a top reporter is to head to the scene and find out what is happening. Good investigative reporters get the *facts*. They know they need to be accurate! Reporters shouldn't go on hunches. Reporters should tell the story just like it happened. That's what we call having *integrity*. Integrity means to be trustworthy and sincere. It means to be honest and to do the right thing even when no one is looking."

Okay, reporters, grab your pencils and let's get the scoop. We are going to begin our investigation by tracking down one of the main characters in our story: *God*.

One way we can uncover clues about main characters is to mark their names in a special way in the Bible so we can get a closer look at these people. Today we are going to mark every place we see the word *God*. We also need to mark each *pronoun* that refers to God. What are pronouns? Check out Mr. Chase's notes.



Now that you know what pronouns are, turn to your Observation Worksheets on page 123. Observation Worksheets have the Bible text printed out for you to use as you study Jonah.

Read Jonah 1:1-9 and mark every reference to *God* or *LORD* in a special way, just like this:

 **God** (LORD—LORD is another name that means God)
(draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)

All right! Now that we have tracked down one of our main subjects of this story, let's find out what we can learn about God from each of these verses. Look at every place you marked *God* (or *LORD*) on your Observation Worksheet. Make a list in your notebook on what you learned about God (LORD).



My List on God

Jonah 1:1 The _____ of the _____
came to _____.

Jonah 1:4 The LORD _____ a _____
_____ on the _____ and there
was a _____.

Jonah 1:9 The LORD God of _____
who _____ the _____ and the
_____.

Wow! WHAT does this list show us about WHO God is and WHAT He can do? In Jonah 1:1 we see that the “Word of the LORD” came to Jonah. This verse shows us that God talks to Jonah. Isn't it awesome to see that God speaks to ordinary people?

In Jonah 1:4, we see the LORD hurls a great wind on the sea

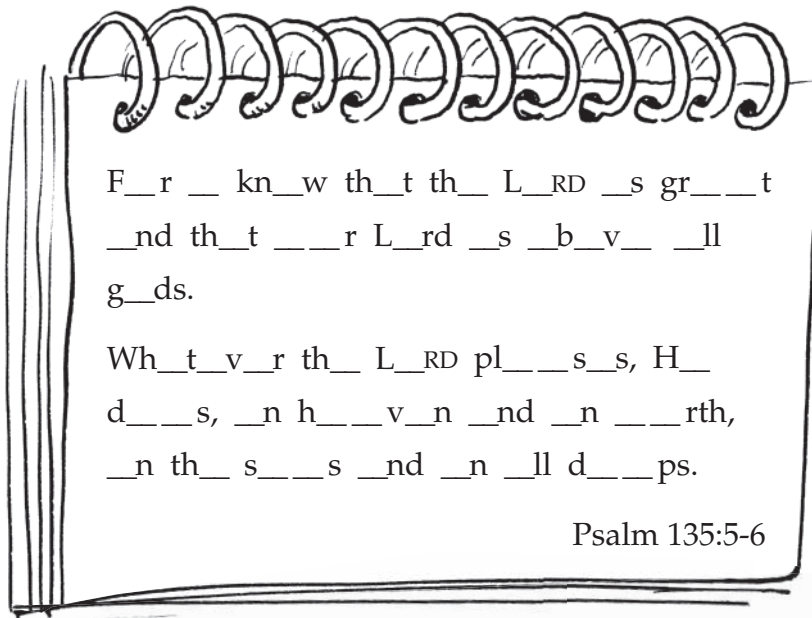
and causes a great storm. God is all-powerful! He has the power to create storms. He rules over nature!

In Jonah 1:9, we discover that God made the sea and dry land. That shows us that God is *Elohim*, the Creator! He created everything.

Are you blown away at what you have learned about God in these verses today? You know that God talks to people. God is all-powerful. He rules over nature. And God doesn't just rule over nature—He created it. Incredible! Just wait! There is so much more to learn about our awesome God.

We are off and running, but before you leave the office, Mr. Chase has one more assignment for you—your memory verses. Each week you will have a new assignment (one or two Bible verses to learn) to help sharpen your memory skills and give you direction as you do your investigative work.

Max copied down your two verses for this week using his speed-writing skills. Reporters sometimes use speed writing to get the facts down quickly. To decode Max's notes, you need to decide which of the missing vowels (a,e,i,o,u) needs to go on each of the blanks. Put the correct vowel in each blank to discover your memory verses for this week.



Fantastic! Now look at your verses and write out three things they tell you about God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name something that has happened in your life or something in the life of someone you know that shows “the LORD is great.”

What a day! Did you know these things about God? Why don't you write these verses on an index card? Now practice saying them out loud three times in a row...three times today!

Think about all the wonderful things you learned about God. Wow!



A PROFILE ON JONAH

It's great to have you back at the office. Mr. Chase has given us our next assignment. Today we need to investigate the other main character in the book of Jonah. Let's get started by talking to our Master Editor and asking for His help as we head back to Israel to dig up the facts on a man named Jonah.

All right! Now that you have prayed, grab those colored pencils and turn to your Observation Worksheet on page 123.