

1. *The Field.* Question the class about what they know of Nineveh, where it was situated, how large it was (ch. 1:2; 3:3; 4:11), its moral and religious condition (ch. 1:2; Nahum 3:1-3), and tell the class about the discoveries which are now being made by those who are digging into the great grassy mounds on the plains of the Tigris, confirming the statements made about this city by the Bible writers. The most revolting pictures of cruelty are to be found on the slabs which are being dug out of the mounds. Note that this was a difficult field for a missionary, but that difficult fields have often yielded the best results. Bloodstained Erromanga was a difficult field, but it yielded itself to the blessed influence of the gospel which our missionaries carried to it.

2. *The Missionary.* Note that God had some trouble in getting a missionary for this field. Question the class about God's first call to Jonah. How did this man treat the divine call. How did he succeed in fleeing from the face of the Lord? There is no journey we can make that is more dangerous than going away from duty, which means running away from God. Note that God gave Jonah another chance, and bring out how much more merciful God is than man who seldom gives a brother a second chance. What message had Jonah to deliver? Show that this threatening message was adapted to the moral condition of things in Nineveh, and make clear that even the gospel of love makes room for an appeal to man's fears.

3. *The Marvelous Success of This Mission.* Ask one of the scholars to tell about it. The alarm spread till the whole city was aroused. How can we account for the marvelous success of this mission? How can we account for the success of missionary work anywhere, any time? Tell about the successful missionary work being done on our own mission fields, and make the scholars feel what a grand thing it is to have a personal interest in this the greatest work in the world.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

This is a "Foreign Missionary Lesson." A good beginning, therefore, will be a little talk about some of our Foreign Mission fields and

some of our foreign missionaries. Perhaps some of the scholars will be able to tell something about one or more of our own missionaries and the heathen countries where our church is at work. Tell them, that the little book of Jonah is a story of a foreign missionary of a time long, long ago. Then take up with them the story of the book, with its four wonderful chapters.

*First, JONAH'S SHIPWRECK, ch. 1.* Tell the scholars, or, better still, if possible get them to tell you, of the Lord's command to Jonah that he should go and preach to the people of Nineveh; of the prophet's flight to Joppa, where he took ship for Tarshish (have these places pointed out on the map); of the great storm and the sailors' terror; of the casting lots and Jonah's being thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish.

*Secondly, JONAH'S PRAYER, ch. 2.* This part of the story, with classes of boys and girls, may be passed over lightly, emphasis being laid on the answer to the prophet's prayer in his being cast out on the dry land.

*Thirdly, JONAH'S PREACHING, ch. 3.* This chapter forms the special Lesson for to-day. The questioning and discussion should bring out: the repetition of God's command and Jonah's obedience, now prompt and unquestioning; his going up and down the streets of the great city for three days, uttering his message of love; the faith and repentance of the Ninevites and the king's decree; and the outcome of it all in God's withdrawal of the threatened doom.

*Fourthly, JONAH'S LESSON, ch. 4.* Question about Jonah's displeasure (v. 1) and its cause (see Lesson Explained), and dwell on the beautiful description of God's character in v. 2. Ask for the reason why Jonah wished to die (see, again, Lesson Explained). Leave plenty of time for the lesson taught from the gourd, how Jonah's grief over the gourd was a picture of God's grief at the thought of destruction coming upon the Ninevites, especially the city's helpless, innocent children, and the animals.

Do not miss the opportunity of stressing God's love for the heathen world and His desire that all its people shall be saved. Ought not we to have the same love and show it by our deeds?