

1. The reason for Jonah disobeying God - while not given in chapter 1 verse 3 - is stated by the author in chapter 4 and verse 2.
2. The issue *was* fear—fear that the Ninevites might repent and be spared the disaster that Jonah thought they deserved.
3. The response of the ship's crew was to cry out to their own gods. Apparently - this was an international, polytheistic crew.
4. Next - we see the moment of revelation. (1:7-10)
5. The casting of lots was a widely used method in the ancient Near East to determine the guilty person. It is interesting to imagine the drama of this moment.
6. For the first time in the story Jonah speaks. But he responds to all their questions with only two answers, which are simple and relatively short.
7. He knew that his response probably would satisfy the curiosity of the crew.
8. To know that Jonah was a Hebrew was one thing; to know that he worshiped the supreme God was another. To run away from a god was foolish; but to run from “the God of heaven, was suicidal.
9. The question, “What have you done?” was not about the nature of Jonah's sin but an exclamation of horror. They were frightened to the depths of their beings.
10. It is interesting to imagine the drama of this moment. As the lot found Jonah to be the guilty party, all eyes focused on him.
11. For the first time in the story Jonah speaks. But he responds to all their questions with only two answers, which are simple and relatively short.
12. In describing himself as a Hebrew in verse 9, he was using terminology they would understand. (1 Samuel 4:6)
13. This is a term which is seldom used in the Old Testament, which prefers the expression “Israelite.”
14. It is frequently used by foreigners, especially Egyptians and Philistines, or by Israelites in speaking to foreigners, such as these sailors.
15. This is the only place in the Old Testament where someone says “I am a Hebrew,” though Joseph implies it in Genesis 40:15.
16. Jonah had already told the crew that he was running away from God, but now he told them he was God's prophet, the God who created the heaven, the earth, and the sea.
17. This announcement made the sailors even more frightened. The God who created the sea was punishing His servant and that's why they were in danger!

18. With the identity revealed not only of the culprit but also of God, the sailors demanded a solution from Jonah. (verses 11-17)
19. Since they did not know what this God's requirement was for obedience, they naturally turned to Jonah and asked him, "What should we do to you?"
20. The unnatural severity of the storm and the casting of the lot only confirmed what Jonah already knew. So now he resigned himself to his "fate."
21. There appears to be no evidence of any repentance for running from the Lord but merely resigned himself to what seemed to be the only solution.
22. It is interesting that Jonah did not offer to jump overboard on his own. Perhaps he was too afraid, or at this point he was merely asking for them to be the instrument of God's punishment.
23. It became quite obvious to the sailors - in verse 13 - that Jonah's God was not in favor of their means of dealing with Jonah's predicament.
24. Application: Superficial solutions to the consequences caused by our rebellion and disobedience seldom work.
25. **1:14** The prayers were passionate, but those who prayed were pagan and had only recently come to a respect for God and His power. The sailor's prayer consisted of three parts.
26. The petition "let us not die for taking this man's life" also indicates a fear of His vengeance. The sailors were afraid that there might be some kind of retribution for what they were about to do.
27. They apparently were aware that the taking of a man's life was a very serious matter, and consequences were involved, especially when the person was a servant of the supreme God.
28. The second goes deeper than the first. The use of the term "innocent blood" might indicate some uncertainty on their part about Jonah's guilt.
29. The sailors had not been present during Jonah's "choosing" and therefore had no direct evidence by which to judge him. But - they did not wish to be held responsible for what was going to happen.
30. Then - in their final statement, "For you, O Lord, have done as you pleased," the sailors attempted to put this totally in God's hands. They wanted the Lord to recognize that they wanted no part in what came next.