

## **Jonah 4**

### **Is it right to be angry? Round one v1-4**

Jonah seems to get angry as soon as the people of Nineveh repent and ask for mercy. What does he know that they don't, v2?

Jonah has remembered Exodus 34:1-7, which he quotes here, but has forgotten its context of Exodus 32:1-19. How might remembering this have changed his angry response to Nineveh's repentance?

### **Is it right to be angry? Round two v5-11**

Why is Jonah waiting in the sun? What makes him happy? What makes him angry? What has he forgotten?

How would you describe Jonah's attitude to God? How would you describe God's dealings with Jonah? How does He challenge Jonah's attitude?

Now read 2 Kings 14:23-29 again. (We read it in the first study.). How does Jonah's experience with the plant mirror Israel's experience of God? What conclusions should Jonah's readers back home be drawing from the events of this chapter?

### **Thinking it through**

Think back through the whole book. How does Jonah feel about God's patience and mercy a) to himself and Israel? b) to Nineveh? Why?

Jonah saw God's mercy as his right and so got angry when God removed it. Can you think of ways in which we might drift into a similar approach? Can you think of specific instances when we might think we know better than God?

How do you think Jonah's book will help us to see ourselves and God better and to respond rightly to his dealings with us and others?