

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## Jonah 4

**Ice Breaker:** Share a time when the Lord was merciful to you and people rejoiced with you.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking at our text, why do you think Jonah was so angry that the Lord relented of the judgment He had promised to Nineveh?
2. Can you recall a time when you were angry that the Lord granted mercy to someone you believe didn't deserve it? What does Jonah's reaction and our own say about what's in our hearts?
3. Three times our passage says that "God appointed." What do you think God is trying to teach Jonah with the appointment of the plant, worm and scorching wind and sun? What circumstances has God appointed in your life to teach you about himself? How would we view our circumstances differently if God was not in control?
4. Why is it sinful to be angry at God? Is anger always sinful? What are we saying in our hearts when we get angry at God?
5. Jonah is so angry with God that he says he is angry enough to die. How might anger drive someone to desire death? With suicide at historic rates in the world, how can we as a church help those who are in such deep despair that they desire death rather than the grace and mercy of Jesus?
6. In Romans 12:15, we are commanded to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. How do we cultivate a heart today that will be ready to do both when called upon? What truths do we need to believe?
7. How does God show Jonah mercy and grace in his rebellion? The book of Jonah ends rather sharply. Is there redemption in Jonah's story? Why or why not? What do you think is the main purpose of the book of Jonah?
8. **Application Exercise:** Take a moment to reflect on your life and the times that get angry. Is there a pattern to when you get angry? What are you thinking and wanting in the time leading up to your anger? Is there an injustice are you perceiving or a hope that is taken away? Is your anger righteous or unrighteous? Why or why not? How does God desire you to handle your anger? What does it look like practically to trust God with this situation and put away your anger?

## Suggested Resources on Anger

- *Uprooting Anger* by Robert D. Jones
- *Calming Your Heart* (31-day Devotional) by Robert D. Jones
- *Good & Angry* by David Powlison
- *A Small Book About a Big Problem* by Ed Welch