

Questions for Further Study...

'Letting go and moving on...'

Read Jonah chapter 4

- 1. Look at verse 4-** The LORD replied 'is it right for you to be angry?' Do we ever have a right to be angry? If so, when? Do you think Jonah had the right to be angry?
- 2. Read verses 5-8.** The gourd that grew up provided shelter and security for Jonah and when it withered he was disappointed. Perhaps it speaks of times when the things we rely on disappear. *Does that plant mirror things in your life that you rely on rather than God?*
- 3. It is apparent that Jonah was very angry about Nineveh and the gourd*.** We talked on Sunday about how anger can lead to bitterness. Read Hebrews 12:14-15. *How can we work at being peacemakers rather than becoming bitter? (See also Eph. 4:31, Matt. 5:9, James 3:18)*
- 4. The story of Jonah reminds us that God's love is wider than we imagine,** stretching even to those who are 'off the rails'. As a church we reach out in various ways (through YFM, Streetwise, Basics Bank, Pre-school etc). *Is there a way you could reach out as a Small Group over the summer period? (I know many of you do already!)*
- 5. I have had many interesting responses to the sermon** on Sunday and bitterness is clearly something that many of us experience at some point in our lives. *If you feel able to, share your experiences and spend some time praying into situations you are finding difficult.*

Further Reading:

'*Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love*'- this is a very interesting document on how to handle disagreement in churches...

<http://tinyurl.com/36puqxo>

* Yes, I didn't know what it was either but apparently it's a climbing or trailing plant that bears fruit. The gourd family also includes the marrows, squashes, pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers. So now you know...