

SOMETHING MORE
BLINDED BY HATRED
Jonah 4:1-11

As we bring our study of the book of Jonah to a conclusion there are some important lessons that we have learned. In chapter one we discovered that you can't run away from God. He will come looking for us no matter where we go or how far we have tried to run away from Him. In chapter two we came to the realization that even in the midst of great distress, like being swallowed by a great big fish or a great big problem, God not only hears our crises for help but can rescue us. In chapter three we found out that even terribly wicked people can be forgiven by God when they truly repent. Finally, in this last chapter of the book of Jonah, we will uncover the dangers of hatred and why we need to make sure that it never gets a hold on our lives.

1. How did Jonah respond to God's decision to forgive the people of Nineveh when they repented?
2. Why was Jonah so angry and filled with anger? What is the root cause of hatred?
3. Who does hatred hurt? Does it just hurt the one who is hated or are there some other casualties as well? Was Jonah a happy or unhappy person because he hated the people of Nineveh?
4. What was God trying to teach Jonah when he made the plant grow over him to provide shade and then turn right around the next day and destroy it?
5. How can we overcome hatred when it crops up in our own lives? Read Matthew 5:44 and Ephesians 4:31-32.
6. Is there someone in your life that you resent, have hard feelings about them or perhaps even hate them? What should you do? How can words and acts of kindness make a difference? Is there someone you need to visit, someone you need to forgive?