

# Message Notes

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*The Lord God Appointed a Plant*  
*The Gospel According to Jonah*  
*Jonah 4*  
*January 28, 2007*

# Message Outline

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*The Lord God Appointed a Plant*  
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## **I. The Good News of God's grace is Global.**

- His grace is surprising.
- His grace is trans-national.
- His grace is multi-dimensional.
- His grace works through the mundane.
- His grace is sovereign.

## **II. The Good News of God's grace is Personal.**

- His grace calls us.
- His grace pursues us.
- His grace confuses us.
- His grace confronts us.
- His grace exposes us.
- His grace humbles us.
- His grace silences us.
- His grace changes us.
- His grace sends us.

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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### ***The Lord God Appointed a Plant***

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1. Take a few minutes and read the entire book of Jonah again. Give a couple of instances of where we see that the Gospel is GLOBAL. How about a couple where we see that the Gospel is PERSONAL?
2. Remembering the historical context of Jonah and the original audience for the book, how do we see the multi-dimensional nature of the grace of God? What was God doing in the lives of his people in Israel? What was God doing in Nineveh? What was God doing in Jonah's life? How might this apply today?
3. In 4:5, what do we make of the fact that Jonah makes a shelter for himself? Who else in Biblical history makes a covering for himself? What happens then? What happens now? What is the spiritual lesson?
4. How was the killing of the plant an expression of God's grace in Jonah's life? What did it expose in him? What was it intended to change in him? Did it?
5. What is unexpected about the ending of the book of Jonah? How do we want it to end? Why might it end the way it does?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***The Lord God Appointed a Plant***

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. How does the book of Jonah show that internalizing the Gospel and all its implications and applications is a life-long process?
3. In the book of Jonah, we are let "into" the secret workings of God's grace in Jonah's life. We are forced to see his experience and all his circumstances through the lens of God's sovereign grace. Why is it so difficult to view our own circumstances through this same lens?
4. What has the Gospel of God's grace confronted in your life in recent days? What areas and attitudes do you think God is going after in your life right now?
5. In 4:5, Jonah sits outside the city. . . instead of what? How do we sit outside our community as believers? How do we justify that Biblically? Is this sound reasoning? What might it look like for us to sit inside the community?
6. How does God love the Ninevites? How does God love Jonah? Why is it such a struggle for us to love whom God loves, the way God loves?