

LifeGroup Study
HE GETS US
JESUS GOT ANGRY TOO
2023-01-08
Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our series, “He Gets Us”! Jesus gets our lives because he was human too. In this series we will explore how Jesus knows what we’re going through. He cares and he is able to help you as you trust in him. Our topic this week is, “Jesus got angry too.” Jesus gets what it's like to look at injustice and be angry. In the temple he flips the tables because the temple had become a "den of thieves" instead of a house of prayer. He also warns against becoming angry in the sermon on the mount (Matt 5:21-26). Are you harbouring anger against someone? Are you posturing your anger as "righteous" that isn't? Is your behaviour around something you're angry about fitting for the situation? Our goal for today is to see our anger as God sees it and invite him to change our unrighteous anger from rage to calm.

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever experienced a time when you felt really angry? What was the situation and how did you react?

STUDY:

1. Read Mark 3:1-6 together. In this passage Jesus is confronted with criticism from the Pharisees.
 - **What do you think Jesus was thinking in this moment?**
 - **How does Jesus respond?**

LEADER NOTE:

The word interpreted as “anger” in this passage is *orgē*. It can be defined as wrath, anger, the feeling and expression of strong displeasure and hostility; this can range from petty human anger to the righteous anger of God toward sinful disobedience. This word occurs about 36 times in the New Testament.

2. Ephesians 4:26-27 instructs: " ²⁶“In your anger do not sin:” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.”

- **What does this passage suggest about the role of anger in our lives?**
- **How might we be able to "be angry and not sin"?**
- **What does it mean to "not let the sun go down on your anger"?**
- **What does it mean to give the devil a foothold?**
- **What practical steps can we take to follow the instructions of this passage?**

LEADER NOTE:

To give the devil a foothold means to allow the devil or evil influence to gain a hold or presence in one's life. This can refer to giving in to temptation or sin, or allowing negative or destructive thoughts or behaviors to take root and have an impact on one's actions and decisions. It can also refer to letting negative or malicious people or influences have an influence on one's life. The phrase is often used in the context of spiritual or moral guidance, and the idea is that by giving in to these negative forces, one is making it easier for them to have power or control over one's life.

3. Read Colossians 3:1-13. Notice in verse 8 that Paul tells us to "put off" certain behaviors, including anger.

- **What does it mean to "put off" anger?**
- **How can we do this?**

LEADER NOTE:

In the context of Christian faith, to put on the new self in Christ means to adopt a new way of living that is centered on Christ and guided by his teachings and example. Through faith in Jesus, believers are made new creations and are given the opportunity to live a transformed life. This transformation is not something that can be achieved through one's own efforts, but rather is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

4. Read James 1:19-20.

- **What does this passage teach us about the role of our tongue in relation to anger?**
- **How might being "slow to anger" help us to act in a more righteous way?**

LEADER NOTE:

In these verses, James is encouraging his readers to be mindful of their speech and actions, and to cultivate a disposition of openness and patience rather than quickness to anger. He suggests that anger, particularly when it is not controlled or managed properly, can lead to actions and behaviors that are not in line with God's righteousness. Instead, James encourages his readers to listen carefully and thoughtfully before

speaking, and to strive for a calm and measured response rather than a reactive or angry one. By doing so, they can more effectively reflect the righteousness and love of God in their words and actions.

5. Read Proverbs 15:1 and Proverbs 29:11.

- **How do these passages encourage us to respond to anger?**

LEADER NOTE:

Proverbs 15:1 - This verse highlights the power of words to either diffuse or escalate conflict. When faced with anger or hostility, the proverb advises responding with kindness and a soft answer, which has the effect of calming the other person's anger and diffusing the situation. In contrast, a harsh or confrontational response is likely to stir up further anger and escalate the conflict. This proverb encourages a proactive approach to conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of choosing one's words carefully in order to achieve a peaceful resolution.

LEADER NOTE:

Proverbs 29:11 - This verse contrasts the behavior of a fool with that of a wise man. A fool is described as someone who allows their emotions to dictate their actions, giving full vent to their spirit or temperament without considering the consequences. In contrast, a wise man is able to control their emotions and hold them back, even in difficult or challenging situations. This proverb suggests that wisdom involves being able to regulate one's emotions and reactions, rather than being swept away by them. By maintaining control over their emotions, a wise person is able to act thoughtfully and calmly, rather than impulsively or recklessly.

6. Read Matthew 5:21-26 together. Jesus says that those who are angry with their brother or sister "will be liable to judgment."

- First talk about what you notice about this passage.

What do you think it's saying?

- **Why do you think Jesus takes anger towards others so seriously?**

LEADER NOTE:

Jesus here is concerned with our relationships with one another. We aren't to just "not kill" each other, but need to guard our hearts and feelings toward one another. There is also an emphasis on dealing with anger in a timely fashion, reflecting back to Ephesians 4:26-27.

Note: "Raca" in verse 22 is an Aramaic term of contempt meaning fool or empty-headed. Jesus spoke in Aramaic.

7. Do the passages we've discussed so far leave room for us to set healthy boundaries between us and people who have hurt us or perpetually make us angry? If so, **what would that look like?**

LEADER NOTE:

We can forgive and let go of our anger and still have boundaries in place with people who hurt us or make us angry. Finding this balance takes a lot of wisdom and prayer.

8. Do you have anyone in your life that you are angry with right now? Would you be willing to tell the group so that we can pray for you to be able to properly deal with your anger?

PRAYER:

Here are 3 prayers your group can pray together, or you can pray on your own this week:

Source: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/prayers-about-anger.html>

A Prayer to Be Free from Anger, Resentment, and Bitterness

Oh, Lord, we know from Your Holy Word that anger can well up inside us, turn our thoughts from You and channel them into destructive, evil notions that lead us astray. We are often brimming over with emotion. From happiness and surprise to anger, fear, and disgust, our feelings are natural and by design. Some of these feelings are glorious and blissful, but others, left unchecked, can steer us away from You and all the good You intend. Sometimes they fester so long and so deep they begin to rot inside of us.

Anger can turn from a dull flare to a throbbing flame and eventually to a wildfire, reaping only destruction in its wake. Help us, Lord, to remember Your instructions throughout Scripture about anger. Help us to honor Your words to the Apostle Paul: "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" ([Ephesians 4:26](#)) and, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" ([Ephesians 4:31](#)). Help us to stamp out anger before it becomes a fiery flare, and help us choose to remain calm and talk things out in love with the spirit of correction and accountability, rather than fighting. Instead of resentment and bitterness, let seeds of love and reconciliation grow in our hearts seeds that point to You

and Your way, not our own.
Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

A Prayer to Control Your Temper and Frustration

Lord, You are all-powerful and almighty. You created the sun and the stars, the seas and the heavens above, the earth and all creatures upon it—the very universe and time itself. Who then are we to stand in Your way and let our tiny flares of rage ignite? Help us to step back and allow You and only You to reign supreme. Help us to know and take comfort that You will dole out Your holy wrath justly and completely.

Enable us to rest in the peace of being Your child, Your people, knowing You will handle all things in Your perfect time. Help us set aside the fury and the frenzy, the angst and the nascent seeds of hate beginning to sow. Let us remember the wisdom you gave us through Your servant, James, that everyone should “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” ([James 1:19-20](#)).

Let us remember the proper motivation—not pride, not prejudice, not personal insult or attack, not fear, but rather a deep and pure affront to God and all You hold dear. Allow our anger to make room for You at the center to honor You and to care for Your people above all. Give us a spirit of peace and rest in You. In Your holy name we pray, amen.

A Prayer When You Feel Righteously Angry at Injustice

This world can be like a tidal wave—swirling with hate and rage and fury and disgust, ripe with injustice, oppression, intolerance, blindness, persecution...and evil. Deep, deep evil. Our hearts cry out to You, Lord! Our anguish rails and roils like waves lashing against the shore! Help us to remember how You reacted when You saw injustice. You gave us Your son, Jesus, “The way and the truth and the life” ([John 14:6](#)) to be our example, to show us the path to You, to show how we could work to reign in our frail and faulty human weaknesses. Confronted with the sin of ignorance and pride, of obstinance and rebellion, You show us the way in Your Holy Word: “He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored” ([Mark 3:5](#)).

Help us remember the words You gave us through the Apostle Paul: “Do nothing out of selfish

ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” ([Philippians 2:3-7](#)).

You are our Father. When injustice arises, help us remember: You are in control. You will prevail. And we are Yours. In Your holy and precious name, we pray, amen.