

Group Leader Guide

What Would Jesus Say – part 8 “to the Angry”

Sermon Recap

What if the anger burning inside you is actually stealing your freedom? Pastor Chris reveals how Moses lost everything in a moment of unrighteous rage—striking the rock instead of speaking to it, letting personal offense override God's clear instruction. Through raw honesty about road rage and church parking lot conflicts, Chris shows how anger feels justified but costs us relationships, peace, and opportunities. Jesus calls the angry to listen before reacting, deal with anger quickly before it hardens into bitterness, and choose forgiveness over revenge.

Ice Breaker

If you could instantly become an expert in any hobby, what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions

1. What from the sermon stood out to you? How were you challenged, motivated, or convicted from what you heard?
2. Pastor Chris shared about the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger using Moses as an example. What made Moses' anger righteous when he saw the golden calf, but unrighteous when he struck the rock twice?
 - a. In Exodus 32, Moses was angry at the idol worship and disobedience to God. In Numbers 20, Moses was angry at the people's complaints and disobeyed God's command to speak to the rock instead of striking it.
 - b. Think about a recent time you felt angry. Was your anger focused on defending what's right and honoring God, or was it more about your personal feelings being hurt? How can you tell the difference in your own life?
3. James 1:19-20 tells us to be 'quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.' Why do you think listening first is so important when we're feeling angry or frustrated?
 - a. Pastor Chris emphasized that society is quick to jump to conclusions and assume the worst, but we're called to be different - to think before reacting and give humble attention instead of impulsive reactions.
 - b. What practical steps could you take this week to become a better listener when you feel anger rising? How might pausing to listen change the outcome of difficult conversations?
4. Pastor Chris said that 'anger is like an arrow we turn, point and fire at ourselves' and that unresolved anger can harm both our bodies and relationships. What do you think he meant by this?

- a. The sermon mentioned that anger feels good in the moment but takes much more in return, and that unresolved anger can lead to physical problems like headaches, high blood pressure, and relationship damage.
 - b. Is there any unresolved anger in your life that you've been holding onto? What would it look like to deal with that anger before it causes more harm to yourself or others?
5. According to Ephesians 4:31-32, we're called to forgive others 'as God in Christ forgave you.' Why is it significant that our forgiveness should be based on how God has forgiven us?
 - a. Pastor Chris explained that forgiveness doesn't mean saying 'what happened didn't matter,' but choosing to release the right to get even so we can walk in freedom, just like Jesus treats us with patience and grace.
 - b. Think about someone who has hurt you. How does remembering God's forgiveness toward you change your perspective on forgiving that person? What would choosing peace over revenge look like in that situation?
6. Pastor Chris ended by saying that if Jesus is Lord of your life, 'your name is freedom' rather than anger. What do you think it means to live with freedom as your identity instead of anger?
 - a. The sermon emphasized that anger doesn't have to define who we are, and that Jesus offers freedom from being enslaved to anger through listening, settling conflicts quickly, and choosing forgiveness.
 - b. How would your daily interactions and relationships change if you truly believed your identity was 'freedom' rather than letting anger control your responses? What would be different about how you handle conflict?

Prayer

- Begin by sharing any personal prayer requests.
- Ask God to grant you the wisdom to choose righteous anger that seeks correction and restoration.
- Pray for the ability to be quick to listen and slow to speak, reflecting Jesus in your interactions.
- Seek God's help in releasing any unresolved anger and choosing forgiveness and peace over revenge.