

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read John 2:13-25 aloud.

1. How did Jesus act out his anger? Why?

Do you think this was unbridled rage or a calculated protest?

In what ways did Jesus demonstrate restraint in his anger?

He drove out cattle and sheep, which could be rounded up. But he did not release the doves, which would have flown away permanently.

When have you seen someone acting out their anger?

In government settings?

At work or school?

In the movies or television shows?

In PTO meetings or neighborhood associations?

How do you view people who display their anger in public?

Depends on the cause and the nature of the protest. We respect MLK for non-violent protests against racism, but we deplore terrorists.

When is it appropriate to display anger?

2. What made Jesus so angry?

There is a clue in verse 16.

Why did this situation draw Jesus' anger, but he refused to fight back during his final hours? What is the difference between the two situations?

What kind of situations call for God's followers to protest?

When people are mistreated (injustice) or when God is disrespected (irreverence), the Bible says that God notices. So should we.

What kind of situations call for God's people to “turn the other cheek”?

3. As Christ's followers, how should we imitate Jesus' anger?

What are some NT examples of Jesus' followers confronting unjust or irreverent situations? What responses did they use in addition to anger?

Paul appealing for Onesimus' freedom (Philemon).

Peter questioning Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5).

Paul tearing into his straying Galatian friends (Galatians 1:8).

Paul confronting Barnabas and Peter's hypocrisy (Galatians 2:11-13).

Paul challenging the idol worshippers in Athens (Acts 17).

The apostles dealing with Jews binding circumcision on Gentiles (Acts 15).

What role should anger play in a Christian's life? When and how should we be angry?

4. In verses 18-25, where do you see the word “sign”?

18 and 23. Some saw the signs and believed, others saw the signs and demanded more. Sheds some light on verse 25, where it says Jesus did not pay much attention to the response.

What is the significance of a sign in John's gospel?

It is the term John uses for a “miracle.” (See 2:11 and 3:2.)

What does a sign do? What do signs do in John's gospel?

It points to something. Jesus' miracles pointed to the truth that he was God.

In what ways could Christians serve as signs to other people?

The way we live could be a sign that Jesus is real. The things we say and do, and the way we deal with anger are a testimony. See John 13:35 and Acts 4:13.

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

When do you encounter injustice or irreverence in your daily routine? What would be a godly response?

Resources

Bible notes

- Verse 17 refers to Psalm 69, the song of a scorned believer who begs God to intervene. In John's gospel, quoting this psalm could foreshadow that Jesus will die for his faith.
- The temple in Jesus' day was not the one built by Solomon. It was destroyed in 586, partially re-built during Haggai's day (520), and plundered in the 160's. King Herod the Great (same guy who killed baby boys in Bethlehem) tried to gain Jewish favor by restoring the Temple to its grandeur, with construction beginning around 20 BCE. This 3rd Temple, Herod's Temple, was the one Jesus visited 46 years later. Subsidiary buildings were added as late as AD 64, six years before Jerusalem was destroyed again.
- Muslims built the Dome of the Rock on the Temple mountain in the 7th century. The golden dome of this building is often the center of photos of Jerusalem. Jews are not pleased to have a mosque on their temple site, and they gather today to pray at the Western wall, which they call the "wailing" wall.

Prayer ideas

Thank God for the ways he has cleansed your life.

Invite the Spirit to show you areas in your life that need cleansing.

Pray for wisdom to know when and how to be angry.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Read a kids book about anger – *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo* and *Where the Wild Things Are* are classics.

What are some things that make you angry? How do you deal with your anger in bad ways? Good ways?

Read John 2:13-16 aloud.

How did Jesus deal with his anger?

What can we learn from this story about dealing with our anger in healthy ways?

Pray for wisdom to deal with anger.



October 26, 2008

LIFE Group Guide

John 2 – Anger

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **when and how to be angry.**

Kevin is preaching from the book of John this month. Last Sunday looked at Jesus bringing joy to a wedding feast, but this text is a different story.

Leadership tip: Who is an emergine leader in your group? Take advantage of every opportunity to encourage and nurture that person. We need more leaders!!!

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ How did you celebrate bus driver appreciation week?
No joke – somebody (Hallmark?) designated the 3rd week of Oct for BDA.
- ❖ How many boxes of groceries would our group like to provide for families in need?

College Hills will host a Christmas party on December 13 for kids in the Headstart program. Would your LG be willing to prepare grocery boxes to give these families? Here's what it will involve...

- On November 9, you will receive grocery lists and empty boxes.
 - Your group can decorate the boxes.
 - Members have until Dec. 10 to return the full boxes to College Hills.
- This gives you two meetings to work on the project – Nov. 23 & 30.

Please let me or Melissa Pittman know about your group's interest level.

- ❖ People often express anger in one of two ways – "turtles" get quiet and withdraw, while "skunks" let everyone know they are upset. Would your family say you are a skunk or a turtle?
- ❖ What is your favorite "anger" story or movie?
Some classics would be Rambo, Falling Down, Thelma & Louise, and The Untouchables.