

Warm –up Question or Activity

Choose one and discuss as a group.

1. Activity 1 – See how many couples' names from this list we can identify with a name of one of their children:
Adam & Eve Isaac & Rebekah Elkanah & Hannah Zechariah & Elizabeth Boaz & Ruth
Abraham & Sarah Jacob & Rachel David & Bathsheba Zebedee & Salome Joseph & Mary
2. Question 1 – Name a good trait that you saw in one of your parents that you also see in yourself – or (if you have kids) a good trait of yours that you see in one of your children?

Can You Relate?

In this week's Scripture, the "humblest man on earth"¹ turns to anger instead of the Word of God in response to quarreling from the next generation of Israelites, and we see for ourselves the heart-wrenching consequences of succumbing to anger.²

1. These quarrelling Israelites are the next generation, who witnessed the death in the desert of their parents due to complaining, grumbling, and lack of faith. The children seemed to be repeating the sins of the parents.
 - Thinking either of your own parents – or of yourself as parent to your kid(s), identify a *negative* trait or habit that regrettably seems to be passing from one generation to the next.
 - Follow-up question for the group: what Scripture(s) speak(s) hope to that specific situation?
2. These folks finally got under Moses' skin. Badly. Thinking of a recent time when someone erupted at you in anger, what would **they** say you did to trigger them?
 - Follow-up: What factor(s) are most likely to make you aggravating to others?
Alcohol? Exhaustion? Parenting? Financial stress?
Politics? Work deadlines? Lack of caffeine? Impatience?
3. Later,³ God himself described his conversation with Moses "... you disobeyed my *command to honor me as holy* before their eyes." No theatrics. Just the Word of God: perhaps something like, '*In the name of the God of Israel, water - come forth.*' Moses, in anger, instead inserts himself with the striking of the staff –

¹ Numbers 12:3

² *Reminder:* In a sweet act of divine grace, Moses made it to the Promised Land ~1,440 years later – with Jesus and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:1-8.

³ Numbers 27:14

diverting attention to himself instead of God. Few of us make good decisions in anger. Describe a time when you made a choice in anger that cost you – or that you regret.

4. What is behind anger as you experience it? What sets you off and why does it bring forth so much emotional energy? What is at the root of that deep emotional response?

Live It Out

Let us be agents of peace in the face of anger this week. As this week unfolds, let's remember the grace that God extends to us in our failings – and be a source of grace, understanding, and Christian testimony to those around us in the midst of their anger.

- What do you want to take away from this discussion? How can you apply or build upon it in the week or months ahead. Write it down on the paper provided.
- A good starting point for overcoming anger is knowing what triggers you and why. Few people have the courage and character to run that to ground. This week, consider meeting with one of us in a safe, confidential conversation unearthing the root causes of what angers us and lifting each other up in prayer.
- Try this experiment? Start your day in the reality of God's desire for you to have peace, not anger.
 - **How?** At least one day this week, before you get out of bed, on your phone or tablet play *The Blessing* ("The Lord bless you and keep you ... the Lord give you peace"). Absorb the lyrics. Play them back in your head throughout the day. If you do not have that song on your phone, you can find it easily on YouTube:
 - <https://youtu.be/Zp6aygmvzM4> (76M views).
 - **Report back** – next week on how that went.

Encourage your groups to commit time to praying for each other, encouraging each other, meeting one another's needs, fellowshiping together, interceding for one another. Encourage them to continue to meet and to return together at the next scheduled gathering.

Sermon Discussion Guide
My Beautifully Flawed Journey
Week 6: September 25th, 2022
My Anger in the Journey (Numbers 20:1-13)



LEGEND

Adam & Eve	Cain, Abel
Abraham & Sarah	Isaac
Isaac & Rebekah	Esau, Jacob
Jacob & Rachel	Joseph, Benjamin
Elkanah & Hannah	Samuel
Boaz & Ruth	Obed (father of Jesse (father of King David))
David & Bathsheba	Solomon (younger bro. of the deceased child of adultery)
Zechariah & Elizabeth	John the Baptist
Joseph & Mary	James (younger half-brother to Jesus; author of the Epistle)
Zebedee & Salome	James and John (a/k/a The Sons of Thunder)