



Islam in America | A Special Edition from thESource for Youth Ministry

thESource exists to provide Jesus-centered resources for those at work with youth in the Lutheran congregation and beyond ...

THE DIRECTORY

talk sheets

THE TRUE ROOT OF TERROR

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

RIGHTEOUS WRATH & ANGER MANAGEMENT

BUT IS THAT REALLY FAIR?

bible studies

HOLY WAR IN THE BIBLE

WHOSE LAND IS IT?

BROKEN TEETH, BLOODY BATHS, & BABY BASHING: IS THERE ANY PLACE IN THE CHURCH FOR IMPRECATORY PSALMS?

Righteous Wrath & Anger Management | by Rev. Peter Nafzger

Core Text

Romans 12.14, 17-21

Core Visual/Illustrations:

“Anger Management: 101”

Have the group brainstorm two lists: 1) Reasons that people get angry (both good and bad reasons). 2) Ways people express their anger (both health and unhealthy ways).

You may want to include a few famous instances of people expressing their anger – for example, Kenny Rogers’ assault of camera man on July 18, 2005; or the brawl during Detroit Pistons and Indiana Pacers game on Nov. 19, 2004 involving Ron Artest, several fans and other players.

Major Teaching /Talking Points

1. Anger is not a sin. Scripture records times when God was angry (Numbers 32.10-13, Psalm 95.10) and when Jesus was angry (John 2.13-17). There is such a thing as righteous wrath at sin, also for Christians.
2. Although anger itself is not sinful, it can easily lead to sin (Ephesians 4.26). Christians must guard themselves from allowing righteous wrath to express itself in sinful ways.
3. Vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12.19). His vengeance rested upon Jesus in full (Isaiah 53.4-5; 2 Corinthians 5.21), and those outside of Christ will receive their punishment on judgment day (1 Thessalonians 1.6-10).
4. We are called to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5.39), forgive as we have been forgiven (Colossians 3.13), and strive to live at peace with everyone (Romans 12.18). We leave the execution of justice here on earth to the authorities that God has established (Romans 13.1-4).
5. God wants all people to be saved, including those who hurt us (1 Timothy 2.3-4). His love leads us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and allow the light of Christ to shine in us (1 Peter 2.9).



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Questions / Discussion Starters for Youth

1. How do you handle anger? When was a time when your anger got out of control?
2. Martin Luther once wrote, “When I am angry I can pray well and preach well.” Discuss the relationship between anger and prayer.
3. After the Amish school shooting on Oct. 2, 2006 members of the Amish community and relatives of the victims publicly forgave the killer. How is that possible? Why is it hard for the secular media to understand how they could forgive him? What message does their forgiveness send the world?
4. When David was confronted by Nathan with his sin against Uriah (2 Samuel 12), he admitted that his sin was primarily against God (2 Samuel 12.13; cf. Psalm 51). All sins, even sins committed against us personally, are first and foremost sins against God. How does knowing that God willingly forgives those who sin against him affect our ability to forgive those who sin against us?
5. What are some appropriate expressions of anger in response to terrorism and violence? What are some inappropriate expressions?

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