



Jesus Said . . .

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Jesus Said . . .

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Said . . . is a four-week study focusing on the timeless lessons Jesus taught. This study will help older children & pre-teens explore the events of Christ's life and discover biblical principles for handling anger, frustration and disappointment; treating others properly; and faithfulness when it seems all has been lost. Children will take a refreshing new look at the events surrounding the life of Christ through TV interviews, exciting skits, challenging role play, informative Scripture searching activities and thought-provoking discussion questions. Define the problems kids face today by looking through the eyes of the puzzled disciples as they learned from their Master. And finally, gain a new understanding of the person of Jesus Christ—His compassion, His understanding, His forgiveness, and His endurance. Walk in the footprints of the Savior as you journey deep into the life of Christ. Before you start, know that this journey may change your life forever.

What Lights Your Fuse?

In the first session, the students will discuss strong emotions like anger and learn how Jesus channeled this emotion.

The Magnificent Seven

Bible study members will examine the last seven statements of Christ on the Cross.

The Frustration Station

Participants will learn to react like Jesus when life throws them a real curveball.

Connecting the Dots of Compassion

Through this session, participants will examine how Jesus responded to outcasts.

Session One

WHAT LIGHTS YOUR FUSE?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Student handout #1 – *It Only Takes a Spark*
- Student handout #2 – *Welcome to the World of TV News*
- Student handout #3 – *Anger Management*
- Student handout #4 – *Making a List and Checking it Twice*
- Bibles
- Pens or pencils
- Paper

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Because of the deterioration of the home in our society, many children have a real problem with anger. They feel frustrated and many times express it by an outburst of anger at the least little irritation. Children need to be reminded that selfish anger—anger because they have not gotten their way—is sinful. Remind them to slow down, examine the situation calmly and carefully, and ask God to help them see the truth Satan is trying to hide from them. Gently explain to children that the difficulty they have in controlling their emotion is natural. However, it is very important for them to control their anger to keep from lashing out at others.

CONNECT

Before the session starts, arrange to have a children's worker or distinguished leader in the church burst into the middle of your session expressing his anger about the latest round of senseless military action in a war-torn, third world country, which is experiencing famine and disease. His tirade should be directed at injustice. After he leaves the classroom, distribute student handout #1 – *It Only Takes a Spark*. Examine each question and have the participants discuss and answer each question as honestly as possible. Encourage as many responses as you can from the children. Say – *Each of us experience anger from time to time. How do you think God wants us to respond to our anger?* Allow the children to respond to the questions. Lead into the CONSIDER section by saying – *There are some things that can really upset us. How do you think, as Christians, we should handle anger?*

CONSIDER

We live in an imperfect world, a world where things do not always go the way we like. What happens when things do not go our way? Often, we get mad. Participants will have no trouble relating to the problem of anger. For many of them, it is a daily occurrence causing them to fume, fuss, fight, and get into all kinds of trouble. For some of them who struggle with unchecked rage, real danger awaits if they do not learn how to control their volatile emotions.

Distribute a sheet of paper and something to draw with. Say – *I am going to have you express your anger with this sheet of paper. There's only one rule to our "Anger Doodle" game – you are not allowed to write words on your paper or express violence toward someone. You can draw something, fold the paper or even crumple it up into a ball, but I want it to reflect how you feel when you are angry.*



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The assignment must be done honestly but creatively. The emotions you want them to express must be clearly presented so everyone else in the room can understand their feelings. Ask your participants to share their art with the group, and give an explanation of what they have drawn or made. Facilitator, your intention is not to have a deep, doctrinal study of anger. It is designed to open the eyes of the children to the selfish nature of most anger.

After discussion say – *As we consider anger we look to Jesus for our example. In this session, we examine His cleansing of the Temple.*

- Mark 11:15–19

The Bible is a truthful book, telling us what really took place in the lives of men and women who lived long ago. It does not attempt to hide the truth from us concerning anyone, including Jesus. It is important for children to know Jesus was genuinely angry with what He saw in the Temple as they read of His reaction. Jesus was furious! The question to consider is: Why was Jesus angry?

In most of our lives, the anger we express is selfish. We become angry when we do not get our way, and we express our anger as a sign of our rebellion against those who have caused us hurt. Have you ever slammed the door to your room after being grounded or have you ever yelled at your parents when things didn't go your way?

Jesus' anger wasn't like our anger. His anger was not selfish. He was angry at sin and the injustice He saw. He was concerned for the holiness of God and the Temple. Someone once said He was "righteously angry." At other times in His life, Jesus was arrested and abused, yet He never lost his temper against those who were so cruel to Him. In fact, He even took time to heal one of His captors. Jesus' anger was certainly not selfish! We need to ask ourselves if our anger is selfish.

Use the activity below to help your participants understand their anger through Christ's example. Divide children into two groups. Choose two older, outgoing children to be the team captain of each group. Distribute the reproducible student handout #2 – *Welcome to the World of TV News* where students will find a sample interview. Then, instruct them to turn their student handout #2 over and have each side write out the interview from an eye witness account of Mark 11:15-19. Both sides are doing the same story, so encourage creativity, but stay within the context of Scripture. Add a few props. After each group presents its newscast, lead into a discussion by using the following questions for guidelines:

- Why was Jesus angry?
- At whom was Jesus angry?
- Did His anger mean he did not love those people at that moment?

COMMIT

Unchecked anger sometimes leads to rash decisions and many times the consequences cost much more than people want to pay. Many children have a real problem with anger. The physical and emotional changes taking place inside them make for an unstable emotional environment. They feel frustrated and many times express it by an outburst of anger at the least little irritation. Children need to be reminded that selfish anger—anger because they have not gotten their way—is sinful. Remind them to slow down, examine the situation calmly and carefully, and ask God to help them see the



truth Satan is trying to hide from them. Challenge participants to be angry with the sin in their lives. Jesus' anger toward sin and injustice was so powerful it moved him to violent action. Instead of giving in to selfish anger, encourage participants to use their righteous anger as motivation to take violent action against sin in their lives.

In closing, distribute student handout #4 – *Making a List and Checking it Twice*. Go down the checklist together, reading each question. Be sure the children can differentiate between selfish and unselfish anger. End the session with a time of prayer.

SAMPLE

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK

1. Your best friend made the basketball team. You didn't. What do you do?

2. There's been a change of plans. Your mom and dad tell you at the last minute that you cannot spend the night at your friend's house? How do you react?

3. Your little brother keeps picking up the extension phone and listening to your conversations. How do you get him back?

4. Your parents insist on you helping clean the garage on Saturday. You made other plans with your best friend. What is your response?

5. Your sister lost your favorite CD. How do you react?

SAMPLE



Recognizing what ignites the spark of selfish anger.

Session One

Student Handout 2

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF TV NEWS

News caster: This is _____ with News Center 2 here in Jerusalem. This afternoon Jesus of Nazareth visited the temple and created quite a stir. We have several interviews that will help tell the story. Let's go to our traveling reporter, _____.

Reporter: Thanks, _____. I am here in the Temple ready to do some live interviews. Here comes somebody. Pardon me. Can you give us your name and tell us what you saw today in the Temple?

Eye Witness 1: My name is _____ and I had come to the Temple to pray. I was just standing there when I heard Jesus say, "You have turned my house into a den of thieves." He began overturning all the tables and running out those men who operated the tables.

News caster: Thank you _____ for taking time out of your busy schedule to share with our viewers today what you saw and heard at the Temple. This is _____ from News Center 2 here in Jerusalem.

SAMPLE

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Student Handout 3



ANGER MANAGEMENT

Proverbs 25:28

Draw a cartoon strip of the story found in Matthew 20:12-16.

SAMPLE

Session One

Student Handout 4

MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Is your anger righteous or selfish?

Use the checklist to determine the right reasons to be angry.

	Righteous	Selfish
1. Being angry because you are not allowed to use the family car.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Being angry at the car in front of you for not moving at a traffic light.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Being angry at the mistreatment of other people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Being angry with a teacher for giving you a bad grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Being angry because a friend said something about you behind your back.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>