

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

WRATH

December 1, 2019

Human Wrath always misses the mark

Share how you have experienced godly wrath—strategic, controlled action that resulted in justice and transformation.

Share how you have experienced human wrath—reactionary, out of control, selfish anger that makes everything worse instead of better.

Break free from human Wrath

Share at least one way that you plug into God's power when you are angry.

Share at least one way He has enabled you to control and direct your anger.

Share at least one bad habit or idea you are systematically eliminating.

Share at least one way you still struggle with human wrath.

Focus on Patience

Share a time you waited for a specific time and a specific purpose. Share how it felt, how it paid off, and what you learned by being patient.

Share a time you chose not to wait—and how that affected the situation.

Share one thing that helps you choose patience.

Share one situation or relationship where patience is still a hard struggle.

Focus on Justice

Even when we are right, our selfish, arbitrary wrath rarely makes a positive difference. At best, we create a memorable, fear-inspiring display or punish those who do wrong. Righteous defends the powerless, destroys systems that feed evil, and strategically makes God's will happen on earth.

Share a time when you were right but your wrath messed things up.

Share a time when someone else was right but their wrath drove you away.

Share one issue or situation that should--and does--arouse anger in you; then, as a group, pray about how to take strategic, controlled action.

USE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Bible Study

Study all these passages on your own, this week, and prayerfully decide *what you will do* in response.

Fasting

Take a break from something that makes you angry. For example, stop watching or listening to your favorite news source for one week, shop at a different time of day when the lines are shorter, or get *that* chore done.

Fellowship

Get together and talk with someone you love. Take some time to pray for each other and tell each other how much they mean to you. Ask them to forgive you for anything you have done and not apologized for. Forgive them for anything you are still grasping. Pray for each other, and pledge to each stop doing one thing that irritates the other one.

Meditation and Prayer

Make some time alone with God. Ask Him to reveal anything in your life that angers Him. Write down what comes to mind, and take time to repent and figure out some practical steps to change.

Take something that angers you to Him. Ask yourself AND Him why it angers you so much, and deal with whatever surfaces honestly, prayerfully, and strategically.

Secrecy and Service

Do something really generous for someone who has made it clear that they do not love or respect you, or that something about you angers them. If possible, don't let them or anyone else know about it, and if nothing else, take some time to pray some specific blessings over them!

Simplicity and Stewardship

If you have never committed to tithing, commit to trying it for a specific amount of time. You will be amazed at how God makes sure you are taken care of—and even more amazed at how it builds and deepens your faith. Pray about whatever anger or resentment this idea inspires in you.