## WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



# 8-WEEK STUDY

on the challenging teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount

### WEEK 3

Discussion Guide

If Jesus was serious, then anger can be deadly

Matthew 5:21-26

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#### **WEEKLY READING**

Primary text from this week: Matthew 5:21-26

Secondary texts from this week: Genesis 4:2-8, Exodus 20:13

#### **GETTING STARTED**

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' teaching on anger in the Sermon on the Mount

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is one of your pet peeves?

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. On Sunday, we explored a section of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus connects anger to murder. In what ways does this comparison between anger and murder make sense to you? In what ways does this comparison not make sense?
- 2. Is anger a sin? Why or why not?
- 3. Have someone in the group read **James 4:1-3.** In his book *Enemies of the Heart,* Andy Stanley writes, "We get angry when we don't get what we want\*." Do you agree with that statement? Can you think of an example of a time you've gotten angry that resulted from a different reason?
- 4. Have someone in the group read **Genesis 4:2-8.** Can you think of a time that you have let resentment fester and "crouch at your door?" What happened? What could you have done differently?
- 5. Have someone in the group read 2 Timothy 2:23-24 and then discuss the following questions:
  - (a) What makes an argument foolish or stupid?
  - (b) Are arguments ever a good thing? What are some examples of good and necessary arguments?
  - (c) What are some ideas for how to keep arguments healthy and productive?
- 6. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your life right now in which you need to pursue reconciliation? What might be your first (or next) step?

<sup>\*</sup> Andy Stanley, Enemies of the Heart, Multnomah Books, 2006, page 55

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#### **PRAYER**

**Pray for each other:** Have the group pray for each other that they would each be quick to move towards reconciliation and forgiveness instead of anger and resentment.

**Pray for yourself:** Pray and thank God that He has forgiven you and then ask Him to help you extend that forgiveness towards others.

**Pray for your four:** Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that (1) God would reveal Jesus to them, (2) that God would turn their hearts towards Him, (3) that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and (4) that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

#### **ACTION STEPS**

**Do the following this week:** Identify someone you have been angry, resentful, or frustrated at, and then take a first step towards reconciliation.

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