

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

WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



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?

* Andy Stanley, *Enemies of the Heart*, Multnomah Books, 2006, page 55

