

# UNRAVELING

SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER 16





# LIFEGROUPS

Series: Unraveling

Bible Focus: Isaiah 64:1-9, 65:17-18

Date: Oct. 8 & 9, 2016

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

- What is one of the angriest moments in your life? How did the situation resolve?

—[ CHOOSE 1 SIDE ]—

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- How have you heard people talk about the idea of an angry God?
- What do you believe about God's anger and God's love?

—[ LET'S WARM UP ]—

- Why do most people believe in doing good things? What motives might they have?
- Do you think someone can make a truly selfless act? Why or why not?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Romans 12:9-21, Proverbs 24:17-18 and discuss love and God's anger.
1. What is the difference between human anger and God's anger?
  2. Is it wrong to rejoice when an enemy "stumbles," or is justly punished? Why or why not?
  3. What happens to us when we choose to carry anger and vengeance?
  4. How does the anger of God free us to love and respond to evil with good?

—[ LET'S DIG ]—

- Read Romans 7:14-25 and discuss owning our sinfulness.
1. Are we able to do good ourselves? Why or why not?
  2. When you want to do something good, how is evil "right there with" you?
  3. What does this mean for our ability/desire to carry out justice for ourselves?
  4. How does this impact the way you see God's anger and His forgiveness?

—[ LET'S ACT ]—

- Practice trusting in God's anger. Talk with your LifeGroup and brainstorm healthy ways to turn personal anger into trust and forgiveness. Then make a list of three ways you can trust in God's anger rather than your own this week.



—[ SERMON REVIEW ]—

- Extra scriptures referenced: [Ps 137]
- God is angry at sin! We often neglect speaking of this because it makes us uncomfortable. But this is of vital importance for the world to stop unraveling.
- People often convince themselves that God’s anger is made up. People have seen how others lay claim to God’s anger for their own agenda—to justify their own attitude and actions. So they conclude we must avoid moral absolutes, learn tolerance, and have a loving God only.
- However, without a loving *and* angry God, you end up with terrible injustice and despair.
- Indeed, even the practice of non-violence requires a belief in divine vengeance! Without an angry God who is not going to let anyone get away with injustice, you’re going to take things into your own hands, or you’re going to become deeply depressed and despondent.
- From Isaiah we know that the Israelites wanted God to get even with their enemies, but were humbled by the fact that they deserve God’s anger as well. They realize—as we must realize—they deserve God’s judgment like anyone else! Their “good deeds” are as good as dirty rags.
- Even our good deeds don’t remove us from judgement because the motive for sin and good deeds is the same: We often use sin and good deeds to manipulate an end we feel we deserve.
- Unless we sincerely judge our own hearts, we won’t understand that God’s anger and judgement comes from the immense love for us. But just as God’s anger is caused by His love, so His love in Christ is the satisfaction of His anger!

—[ NOTES ]—

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