



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE
The God Who Saves: Session 7

Wrath

Key Statement: The sin of wrath 1) leads to angry vengeance, 2) can display self-centeredness, and 3) is dealt with in the death of Christ (Rom. 3:25-26).

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Living Dictionary

- Note: this option should be done BEFORE the lesson.
- Break students into groups, and ask each group to produce a wordless dictionary definition of *wrath*. That is, they should demonstrate what wrath is in a skit or drawing. Allow them a few minutes to consider their drawing or skit, and then let them present.
 - You could also have them come up with examples of wrath from films, books, video games, or sports.
- Discuss the patterns you saw across the board. Hopefully, most of the examples stem from some internal hurt; that is, they are all, to some degree, self-centered.
- If there are any examples of good wrath (e.g., a brother getting angry when someone is picking on his sister, or someone getting angry at the human trafficking industry), point out that these are not necessarily sinful because they are not centered in selfishness.
- If you can make the connection, point out how the examples or definitions they showed were examples of angry, selfish vengeance, and point out how these examples are sinful.
- Transition into the lesson.

Option 2: Justifiably Angry

- Guide students to come up with a list of situations or areas where wrath is legitimate. If they need help, get them started with examples like these:
 - Someone picking on a person with disabled and special needs
 - ISIS or other groups enslaving people
 - A madman assassinating police officers
- Once you've got a good list, ask students: Can Jesus' death cover those injustices? You might find it helpful to use Romans 3:25-26 where Paul points out that God crushed Jesus on the cross to satisfy justice (God did not merely overlook the sins of the world indefinitely).

- Break students into groups and guide them to pick one of the scenarios you listed. Each group is to act out a skit where the offender realizes the forgiveness he or she received in Christ. The skit should go on to show how the offender acts in light of this forgiveness.
- Allow them a few minutes to show their skits.
- Hopefully, the offenders changed their lifestyle. Point out this change; people did not merely continue to sin and bring more wrath on themselves by using grace as an excuse to sin. Rather, they realized the magnitude of their sin and the even bigger magnitude of Jesus' love, and their lives changed as a result. Likewise, we also ought to be new people empowered by the Spirit in light of Jesus taking on the wrath of God for us.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only doing points two and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide