Key Scripture/MESSAGE NOTES:

**God will get angry at the right things at the right time for the right reasons and have the right response.**

*The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;*

*in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.*

*The Lord has made himself known, he has executed judgment;*

*the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.*

Psalm 9:15-16 (NRSV)

*'When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. '*

Luke 9:54-55 (NRSV)

*'When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. '*

John 11:33 (NRSV, underlines my own)

**“God’s wrath must be understood in relation to his love. Wrath is not a permanent attribute of God. Whereas love and holiness are part of his essential nature, wrath is contingent upon human sin; if there is no sin there would be no wrath.”** (Anchor Bible Dictionary)

**“Wrath is not something that God is but something that God does.”** (James Bryan Smith, *The Good And Beautiful God*)

**“It’s easy to find ourselves agreeing with God’s anger toward those who we think ought to be judged. But when we find ourselves complicit somehow, our hope is that God will be patient and slow to anger with us. The Bible shows us that’s exactly who God is.”** (The Bible Project)

START THINKING:Find a conversation starter for your group.

* To say that God is “long of nose” is to say that he is patient—it takes him a long time before he becomes angry. He gives people time to respond to his gracious warnings. In your culture, what expressions are used to describe a patient person?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

* Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
* What did God’s wrath always look like to you? How has it changed over the years?
* Let’s consider how Jesus took the consequences of evil upon himself as we read **Romans 5:6-11**. Does Jesus’ self-giving love help us see God’s anger toward evil and his patient love for people at the same time? If so, how?

START SHARING: Choose a question to create openness.

* Can you think of a time where you had to endure the sting of a mistake you made? What did that punishment feel like? What would happen if God handed you over to every natural consequence of sin like that?
* Jesus reveals that God is holy because he deals with sin and evil, yet desires to *restore* his people. How do you think God feels about you knowing that he wants to restore and purify you and I, not destroy us?

START PRAYING: Be bold and pray with power.

*Holy Father, who showed us your love and power through your Son Jesus on the cross, shaming death and sin. May we cling to you and build our lives on you so that your Spirit may free us from sin and temptation that comes after us. We pray this all in the power of your Son Jesus, who reigns with you and the Spirit forever. Amen.*

START DOING: Commit to a step and live it out this week.

* Rewatch [Slow To Anger from Bible Project](https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/slow-to-anger/)