



REIGNMAKER

“Fire Extinguisher”

Matthew 5

Small Group Plan

*“Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam;
so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.”*

— Proverbs 17:14 —

*“A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor,
but a man of understanding holds his tongue.”*

— Proverbs 11:12 —

*“Better a patient man than a warrior,
a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.”*

— Proverbs 16:32 —

*“A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty;
if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”*

— Proverbs 19:19 —

*“A fool gives full vent to his anger,
but a wise man keeps himself under control.”*

— Proverbs 29:11 —

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Do any of these proverbs surprise you? Why?
- Which of them would be difficult for our culture to accept? Why?
- Which do you think is most needed by our culture? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THE PRINCIPLE OF SCRIPTURE —

Matthew 5:21-22

²¹ “You have heard that it was said ... ²² But I tell you ... ”

- Jesus presents six instances of — “You have heard ... but I tell you.”
- What is he trying to communicate? What does he want his audience to understand?
- How is He the fulfillment of the law (v. 17)?
- What danger is he warning against?

— THE POTENTIAL OF ANGER —

Matthew 5:21-22

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

- What is the difference between godly anger and worldly anger?
- What does anger look like when it’s out of control?

— THE POWER OF RECONCILIATION —

Matthew 5:23-26

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

- How could a wall between you and your brother also create a wall between you and your God?
- What does reconciliation with your brother provide that can make your worship of God deeper and more fulfilling?
- Why does Jesus say to defuse angry emotions as quickly as possible?
- Why is it better for Christians to settle differences personally and quietly rather than battle over them in public?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What do you usually do when you get angry?
- What is the best way to settle angry disagreements?
- How can parents equip their children to understand the anger they will feel as they grow up?
- Explain the power of an apology?
- Give everyone a moment of quiet to think of a relationship that needs either their confession or their forgiveness.
- Close by asking God to help each person to take the steps to resolve the relationship issues that came to mind.