

Small Group Bible Study

Title: *When Anger Takes the Lead: Moses, the Rock, and the Grace of God*

Text: Numbers 20:1–13

Theme: How anger shifts our focus to ourselves, distorts obedience, brings real consequences—and how God's grace still redeems.

1. Opening (5–7 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

- Share a time when frustration or anger caused you to respond in a way you later regretted. What made it hard to pause in the moment?

2. Reading the Text (5 minutes)

Have someone read **Numbers 20:1–13** aloud. Listen for:

- Moses' emotions
- God's instructions
- The outcome

3. Observing the Story (10 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

1. What pressures are weighing on Moses in this moment?
2. What exactly does God tell Moses to do?
3. What does Moses actually do—and say?

Leader Insight:

This is not Moses' first experience with anger (see Exodus 32, Numbers 11). This moment represents accumulated frustration finally spilling over.

4. How Anger Shifts the Focus to Ourselves (10 minutes)

Key Moment:

“Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” (v.10)

Discussion Questions:

1. What words or actions show Moses’ focus shifting from God to himself?
2. How does anger subtly move Moses from being God’s servant to being the centre of the story?
3. When we are angry, how easy is it to make ourselves the hero, victim, or judge?

Teaching Point:

Anger often reframes reality—turning God’s work into *our performance* and God’s people into *our problem*.

5. How Anger Warps Obedience (10 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

1. Moses still “acts” — why isn’t that enough?
2. What is the difference between partial obedience and faithful obedience?
3. How can anger cause us to obey *God’s outcome* but not *God’s way*?

Teaching Point:

Anger doesn’t usually lead us to outright rebellion—it leads us to *distorted obedience*. We do something right in the wrong spirit.

6. The Consequences of Anger (10 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

1. What consequences does Moses face? Why do they feel so severe?
2. How does Moses’ failure affect the people and God’s reputation?
3. What does this teach us about the ripple effect of unresolved anger?

Leader Insight:

God’s grace does not eliminate consequences—but consequences are not the same as rejection.

7. Grace: Failure Is Not the End (10 minutes)

Important Gospel Balance:

- God still provides water (v.11)
- God does not abandon Moses
- Moses continues to be called “my servant” elsewhere (Deut. 34:5)

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you see God’s grace in this story despite Moses’ failure?
2. How does God continue to work through imperfect leaders and people?
3. Why is it important to hold both accountability *and* grace together?

Teaching Point:

God is holy, but He is also redemptive. Moses does not enter the Promised Land—but he does appear with Jesus in glory at the Transfiguration (Matt. 17). God’s story for Moses is bigger than his worst moment.

8. Personal Reflection & Application (10 minutes)

Quiet Reflection (optional):

Invite participants to reflect silently, then share if comfortable.

Application Questions:

1. Where has anger recently shifted your focus toward yourself?
2. In what situations are you tempted to obey God *your way* instead of *His way*?
3. What would it look like to bring your anger honestly to God before it spills out?