**Leader Copy | Anger | November, 2 2016**

**Creational Text – Large Group**

**Intro - Have you ever had a friend, or someone you played with as a kid, make you really, really mad?**

**Video Annoying Childhood Friend video** <http://youtu.be/J0F8wlcBl4M>

Ok, lots of these are just silly, but all of them make you sort of mad, don't they? Those things made me furious. Why? Because the kid is being unfair. He's distorting the rules for his own benefit. When people do that in games we call it cheating, but some people also do that in real life. We sometimes call this kind of cheating injustice and it drives the Psalm writers to anger. Today we'll explore what they have to say.

**Creational Text – Small Group**

Has any used any of the "Annoying Childhood Friend" lines on you? Have you used one on someone else?

Why do you think this character is so annoying? *The kid isn't fair, he's manipulative..*

Has someone ever treated you unfairly? Did they get away with it? How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?

**Scriptural Text – Small Group**

**Psalm 56: 5-9**

5 All day long they twist my words;

all their schemes are for my ruin.

6 They conspire, they lurk,

they watch my steps,

hoping to take my life.

7 Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;

in your anger, God, bring the nations down.

8 Record my misery;

list my tears on your scroll—

are they not in your record?

9 Then my enemies will turn back

when I call for help.

By this I will know that God is for me.

What are the psalm writers complaints about his enimies? *Twist his words, they consipire to ruin him, they want to take his life...*

It is pretty clear the psalm writer is angry and miserable. Do you think it is okay for him to feel that way? Why or why not? *Yes, in this case he is angry at the injustice upon him.*

What does he wants God to do? *Not let them escape, bring them down, record his misery, turn back his enemies*

Do you think it would be ok for the writer to fight his enemies on his own\*? Why or why not? *Yes, it's ok to fight back, but not on his own. God ultimately brings justice. If you seek revenge apart from God you may only be creating more injustice.*

\*We'll talk more about this next week.

**Psalm 64**

1 Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint;

protect my life from the threat of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,

from the plots of evildoers.

3 They sharpen their tongues like swords

and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.

4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent;

they shoot suddenly, without fear.

5 They encourage each other in evil plans,

they talk about hiding their snares;

they say, “Who will see it?”

6 They plot injustice and say,

“We have devised a perfect plan!”

Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.

7 But God **will** shoot them with his arrows;

they will suddenly be struck down.

8 He **will** turn their own tongues against them

and bring them to ruin;

all who see them **will** shake their heads in scorn.

9 All people **will** fear;

they **will** proclaim the works of God

and ponder what he has done.

10 The righteous **will** rejoice in the Lord

and take refuge in him;

all the upright in heart **will** glory in him!

What are the writer's enemies doing? *Attacking with words, ambushing the innocent, encouraging evil...*

Who does the writer turn to for relief? *God*

Does the writer feel confident things will be made right? *Yes* Why? *God is not only just, but also powerful, in the end he'll make it right*

Notice the psalm puts all the bad stuff in the past and present tense and the justice in the **future tense**. Do you think it was hard for the psalmist to wait? When will God fix the situation? *The writer doesn't say, it isn't clear...he is confident it will happen, but at the time he's still living in the pain of injustice.*

**Connections – Small Group**

* In each of the psalms the writer turns to God for help. Do you think it was tempting to just get revenge on his own?
* How does turning to God for relief affect the heart of the person who is being mistreated? *It calms the person know things will be made right, takes the burden of revenge off their shoulders, gives peace because God is in control,*
* Is it healthy to be angry? Why or why not? *Yes and no...if we are angry at something that is wrong, it is very healthy. If we are simply upset we aren't getting our own way our anger will eat us up.*
* How can you help in God's work of fixing injustice? *Stand up for those being abused, don't be unfair yourself, be kind to those around you*

Prayer - Ask for any prayer requests and pray together.