

# **I Dare You**

## **Module: Don't Forget the Lyrics**

### **Lesson 4: Paint it Black**

#### **Objectives:**

Students will

- consider the idea that there is a time and a place for things
- discover that it is okay to be frustrated and angry, even with God, but that those feelings need to be dealt with appropriately

#### **Materials Needed**

- ☐ Various tools, equipment and other useful items, or pictures of those items
- ☐ Bibles, one per small group (or if possible, one per person)

## **Minds On**

Give students access to a number of different tools and equipment that serve an obvious purpose. (i.e. shovel, stapler, bowling ball, screwdriver, shoelace, fork, etc) In groups, have the students either write a short story or make a humorous skit in which those objects are used in a way for which they were not intended. If possible, having multiple items for each group would be helpful. It is fine if more than one group uses the same item because, hopefully, they will each come up with a different way of misusing it, helping to illustrate the point. (Pictures of these items could be used in place of the real thing if you prefer, although the actual item may be more effective if you are going to have the students perform skits.)

The goal is to get the students thinking about the fact that there is a time and a place for certain things to be used, and those same items would have very different results if you attempted to use them elsewhere. An understanding of context and the appropriate use of things is the desired outcome from this activity.

## **Action**

Say something like: Just like those items have a specific place where they are useful and good, there are certain feelings, thoughts, and emotions that are best expressed in the proper place or context, such as to a trusted friend or someone who “gets” you. This is not to say that we just bury our emotions or pretend we don’t feel that way, but we need to learn how and when to deal with them.

If appropriate for your group, have students share a time when they have received “too much information” about something or someone. (In order to keep responses appropriate, you may just want to share your own example, or ask a few students or leaders ahead of time if they have an appropriate experience.)

Say something like: I’m sure all of us have had an experience where someone has said or done something that unusual and it caught us by surprise. This might be because we didn’t expect that person to have those thoughts, or because their reaction to a given situation was out of the ordinary either for them, or just in general.

Generally when we think about the Bible, there are certain things that we expect. We, hopefully, aren't surprised to hear things about love and kindness, or that we should be helpful to one another...but you might be shocked at some of the things that David wrote about in the Psalms. Tonight, we are going to take a look at some of the parts that are usually skipped over...or at least read through VERY quickly!!!

As an example, read through Psalm 109 as a group and have students share their initial reactions. Ask them to share which parts stood out to them, or seemed the most "inappropriate." Ask them if they have ever felt this way about people or their situation, and/or if they are surprised to hear that kind of thinking from the Bible. Encourage them to give honest and open responses.

Divide students into groups and have them look at the following passages from Psalms: 3:7, 10:12-16, 35:4-8, 68:21-23, 69:22-28, 140:9-11. Once they have looked at the selected verses, have them examine the context of the whole Psalm and ask the following questions:

- What do you think was happening in his life at this time?
- How was the author feeling?
- How does he handle or deal with those emotions?

(You may want to display these questions on poster paper or a black/white board)

Have the groups share their thoughts with the larger group. The important place to get to is that David always turned his situation over to God. He did not seek his own revenge, but trusted that the Lord would take care of him and would act on his behalf.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Invite your students to get into pairs, or groups of 3, with trusted friends. Keep an eye out for students who might have trouble finding a group to connect with. Perhaps talk to some of your students ahead of time about grouping with those for whom this might be difficult. Encourage them to share some of their own frustrations or angers with each other, and then take the time to pray for one another. Clarify that the point is not simply to vent, gossip, or speak badly of others, but rather to allow them to appropriately express their feeling to another person, and ultimately to God. This might be an emotional experience for some, so encourage your students to be sensitive to those around them, and to quietly leave the space

when their group has finished so that other groups may continue in peace. Encourage your leadership team to be aware and sensitive for what God is doing among your students and to step in where appropriate.