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DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled:

Why Be Mad at a Myth?

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read John 3:19-20.

What does this passage say about some people's motivation regarding the gospel?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 and discuss it in the same way as the above passage.

Section 2

Watch the podcast entitled "Why Be Mad at a Myth?" at <http://OverflowToday.com>

Featured is slam poet Phil Long and excerpts from his poem titled: MAD AT A MYTH. (See much more of Long's work at <http://sacrificialpoet.com/>)

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

The most fervent believer might admit to feeling anger toward God at times. The most friendly atheist, or the most virulent agnostic or atheist can have the same emotion. Discuss what you'd consider "sincere" and alternatively, what you'd consider "selfish" contexts from which to feel anger toward God. Perhaps in this way:

--I can envision one having anger at God from a non-selfish, or sincere perspective in situations like this:

--I can envision one having anger at God for selfish reasons in situations like this:

In the introduction to this show, poet Phil Long said this poem was inspired by an irony he saw. Discuss.

From the content of the poem, please debate and disagree with each other on this question: Does Long feel that this irony is one of appearance only, or that it is reflected in the actual core beliefs of the heart of the type of skeptic who seems more anger-based?

If your position is that an anger-based atheist's emotion is not driven by his actual conviction regarding the existence of God, then what other factors might evoke such anger?

What are current social or moral contexts in our society in which you see anger towards God expressed, either directly or indirectly?

Regarding the examples you've just discussed, what would you say are sometime the true reasons, either obvious or hidden, that this anger is expressed toward God?

If you agree with Phil Long's points in the portion of his poem that you viewed, how would this affect your attitude towards certain people you interact with or people you see in the news? Discuss different types of people or perspectives for this question.

Does contemplation of these points make you more or less likely to move toward a more hostile atheist or agnostic for friendship and dialogue? Why?

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days.

One suggestion (if needed):

Each of us could ask a few friends this week their opinion on the matter in this way:

"In my weekly spiritual discussion group, we discussed times when we might feel angry towards God. We wanted to get others' opinions this week and discuss what we heard at our next meeting. What are times when you have felt angry at God, OR times when you've felt angry at religious organizations or people? Why? Do you believe in God and if so, what type of God?"

Meet back next week to report on what happened.