

ANGER WITH GOD

- Do you ever get angry at God for your suffering with mood disorders?
- Does it help?
- Is it right to do so?

Job is traditionally held up as an example of someone who loved God but suffered from depression. In his anguish he became angry and frustrated with God. His friend Eliphaz saw him this way:

“Why has your heart carried you away, and why do your eyes flash, so that you vent your rage against God and pour out such words from your mouth.” Job 15:12-13

- What happens within us when we become angry at God?

In frustration, Job asked God “why have you done this to me.” But God was frustrated with Job. It’s *his* right to ask questions – not ours. Job went too far when he insisted he had a right to an explanation.

“...the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said: “Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.” Job 38:1-3

God goes on to express his awesome nature. He reminds Job of who he is. At home read Job 38:4 – 41:34.

Job repents for having questioned God:

“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6

Other characters in the Bible who became angry at God:

- Jonah: *“But the Lord replied ‘Have you any right to be angry?’*” Jonah 4:4
- Jeremiah accused God of lying: *“Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring*

that fails?" Jeremiah 15:18 Immediately, God told him to repent and stop uttering foolish words. (15:19)

It's normal to sometimes feel anger at God. Just don't stay there. You might end up bitter and distant from God. Many of David's Psalms are examples of expressions of anger and frustration with God, but they usually end with expressions of hope and praise.

Psalm 22, for example:

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me?
so far from the words of my groaning?
Oh my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night but am not silent.
Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.
In you our fathers put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.
They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people."* (1-6)

*"I will declare your name to my brothers;
In the congregation I will praise you...."* (22...)

From Psalm 13:

*"How long oh Lord will you forget me
How long oh Lord will you look the other way.
How long oh Lord must I wrestle with my thoughts
And every day have such sorrow in my heart
Look on me and answer oh God my Father.
Bring light to my darkness before they see me fall.*

*But I trust in your unfailing love. Yes my heart will rejoice.
Still I sing of your unfailing love.
You have been good; you will be good to me."*