

The Nail

There once was a little, boy who had a bad temper,
his father gave him a bag of nails
and told him that every time he lost his temper,
he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence.
Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger,
the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down.

He discovered it was easier to hold his temper
than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it and the father suggested
that the boy now pull out one nail for each day
that he could hold his temper.

The days past and the young boy was finally
able to tell his father that the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand
and led him to the fence.

He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence.

The fence will never be the same.

When you say things in anger,
they leave a scar just like this one.

You can put a knife in a man and draw it out.

It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

(Author Unknown)

Challenging Questions:

- 1) How are you with your anger and the tone of your words to those around you? _____

- 2) Has your wife, your kids or others around you ever said they are afraid of you? _____

- 3) If you were truly honest with yourself, what areas of frustration trigger the anger you and maybe you need to deal with in a healthier fashion? _____

