

Family Lesson 35

Principle: Not taking vengeance, and letting God judge.

Bible Character(s): David

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 24, Romans 12

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the worship video found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB2Lr9aY2l0&feature=youtu.be>

2. Skit Video - Surfer Dude and Wyatt Burp have a special message for you this weekend! Watch this short video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpC8xMqjr6o&feature=youtu.be>

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Last week, we read that David volunteers to fight. Who does he fight against? (Goliath.) How does David fight Goliath? (David trusted in God to fight his battle for him.) God is faithful to help David defeat Goliath. Just like God fights David's battle, God fights our battles too if we give them to him.

After David's fight with Goliath, David becomes friends with Jonathan, Saul's son. In fact, they become best friends. Jonathan warns David that Saul is angry, jealous, and wants to kill David. David then leaves to live away from Saul. Saul continues to be the king of Israel.

Today, we're going to continue to see what happens with David and Saul. Saul finds out that David goes into the wilderness of En-ge-di

("in-geh-dee"). Let's read the Bible in 1 Samuel 24 ([NLT]).

1 Samuel 24:2-4

² So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats.

³ At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

⁴ "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe.

David has the perfect opportunity to get revenge on Saul for trying to kill him. David's men encourage him to take advantage of the opportunity. Can you think of any times in your life when you wanted to get revenge on someone for something they did to you? What happened? Did you have friends encouraging you to get revenge? Do you think getting revenge is the right choice to make? Why or why not? Do we have the right to judge what others deserve? Let's see what the Bible says in Romans.

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

*“I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,”
says the Lord.*

²⁰ Instead,

*“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to
drink.*

*In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads.”*

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”

What does this passage tell us about revenge? (Allow responses.) **Romans 12** tells us not to pay back evil with more evil. We are to do everything we can to live in peace with everyone. Do we have the right to judge what others deserve? (Allow responses.) **No, we cannot judge what others deserve, but we can decide how we will respond when we get wronged or harmed by someone. We can choose to either give them what we think they deserve, which would be repaying evil with evil, or we can choose to show grace to them just as God has shown grace to us for our sin. Let's look back at the different situations all of you described and talk about what response God would want you to have.**

David has his chance to take Saul out when Saul is most vulnerable. Do you think David chose to repay evil with evil, or do you think he shows grace to Saul and leaves the judgment up to God? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible and find out.

I Samuel 24:5-7

⁵ But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. ⁶ “The

Lord knows I shouldn't have done that to my lord the king,” he said to his men. “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king and attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.” ⁷ So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

Even though Saul is angry at David and tries to kill him, David knows that Saul is still the king of Israel and that God does not want David to kill Saul. David is still under Saul's authority, and he is ultimately under God's authority. David chooses to obey God and does not kill Saul. He knows that God would judge Saul. David is not responsible for correcting Saul's actions.

Saul leaves the cave, and then David comes out and calls to Saul. He bows down to Saul.

I Samuel 24:9-15

⁹ Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? ¹⁰ This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, ‘I will never harm the king—he is the Lord's anointed one.’ ¹¹ Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me.

¹² “May the Lord judge between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. ¹³ As that old proverb says, ‘From evil people come evil deeds.’ So you can be sure I will never harm

you. ¹⁴ Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea? ¹⁵ May the Lord therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

In verse 12, David says, "May the Lord judge between us." What does David know about God for him to have had that response? (Allow responses.) He knows that God is sovereign. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God created all things and therefore he rules over all things. Even though Saul was the king of Israel, God is the Heavenly King and the King of Kings. God is King over Saul. David knows this, and he knows that God is in control. David does not try to do this his way. He points out to Saul that he could have killed Saul, but he chose not to. David recognizes that it was God's place to judge Saul, not his place.

Just like David does not have the authority to judge Saul, we do not have the authority to judge others. When we try to judge others based on our own standards of what is right and wrong and what is deserved, we are lessening God's sovereignty and placing ourselves above him. Abraham calls God "the Judge of all earth" (Gen. 18:25) and God says of himself, "I, the Lord, speak only what is true and declare only what is right." (Isaiah 45:19) We do not have the right to decide what is right and wrong and what punishment is deserved. God declares what is right and he is our judge. God freely gives us grace even though we do not deserve it and he wants us to show grace to others when they do not deserve it.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for his forgiveness of our sin, and ask him to help us forgive others as he has forgiven us.

Activity

Letting Go and Letting God

Supplies:

Letting Go and Letting God worksheet

https://drive.google.com/a/gracechurchsc.org/file/d/1XR1PU9HXKnqcC6htYac4mE5G_IGLLf49/view?usp=sharing

Pencil

The purpose of this activity is to look at different situations to see the difference between a vengeful response and a forgiving response. Have your child read the situations out loud. Younger children can share their answers aloud. Older children can write their answers. Talk about the difference between responding with vengeance and responding with forgiveness for each situation.

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What did you want to happen in each situation? Did you want the person who did something wrong to be punished for it? (Allow responses.) The sin in our heart causes us to want to get revenge, but God wants us to give situations to him and trust that he will handle it however he feels necessary. We are to forgive instead and love our neighbors more than we love ourselves. Forgiving and loving others can be a hard thing to do when we feel like they deserve to be punished for harming or wronging us, but

God already forgave us of our sin when all we deserved was death. We can forgive others and show them grace just like God forgave us and showed us grace. God is the final judge, and he calls us to forgive others instead of judging their actions.

Optional Additional Activity

*Optional activities can be done throughout the week to revisit the lesson content or as an additional activity after the lesson.

Gavel

Supplies:

Gavel worksheet
Markers/crayons

The purpose is to remind your child that God is the creator of all and sovereign over all. He is the

judge and should rule over all our relationships.

Have your child write the following verse and verse reference on his/her gavel: "May the Lord judge between us." 1 Samuel 24:12. Allow your child to color the gavel and decorate the rest of the page. Encourage them to hang this is a reminder.

David recognizes God's authority over everyone and everything. He is the creator of the world and therefore he is sovereign over all; the heavens and the earth are his courtroom. We do not have the responsibility to judge others. God is the final judge. Instead, God calls us to forgive others just as he has forgiven us. We can give everything to God because we can trust him to judge others' actions.



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