



David Spares Saul's Life

1 Samuel 26:5-25



Bible Point: God wants us to love our enemies.



Key Verse: "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

Use the following activities to further the application of this week's lesson in the lives of your family members.

Discussion Starters

Preschoolers

- Is it OK to be mean?
- What makes other people happy?

Elementary Students

- What does it mean to love our enemies?
- Is it wrong to take revenge on other people? Why?

Youth

- What happens when we seek revenge?
- How can we truly love an enemy?

Talk Topics

- Talk about a time you sought revenge. Tell about how you felt and what the effects were on the other person and on you.
- Discuss what happens to our relationship with God when we seek revenge.
- Talk about the difficulties you face when you try to treat enemies with love. What makes seeking revenge so easy? Why is it difficult to resist?
- Discuss what happens in your life when you choose forgiveness over revenge. What changes in your heart? How does that impact others?

Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical insights about loving our enemies.

Monday—Hebrews 12:14

Tuesday—Galatians 6:3

Wednesday—Revelation 22:12

Thursday—1 Peter 3:8

Friday—1 Peter 3:14

Saturday—Matthew 5:44

Daily Challenge®

- Spend some time with God, remembering those who have hurt you in the past. If you still need to forgive some of those people, ask God to help you do that.
- Think of one recent event when you were hurt by someone's words. Then think of something you'll do for that person this week to show God's love to him or her.
- Is there someone you know who's having a hard time forgiving someone else? Spend time with him or her; share how God has helped you to forgive others in your past. Pray with him or her, and help that person to come up with ideas on how to love his or her enemies.
- After an evening meal, give each family member a sheet of paper and finger paints. Ask each person to paint a picture of someone he or she has wanted to seek revenge against. If family members have a difficult time thinking of people, tell them they can use people from the past that they've wanted revenge on. Tell them not to paint pictures of other family members. When finished, show your finger paintings and tell why you each want or wanted revenge. Take a moment after each picture is presented to pray for the family member and the situation. Ask God to grant strength for forgiveness rather than revenge. When everyone has shared, allow the paintings to dry, and hang them in a family room. Ask each family member to remove the painting only when he or she has been able to forgive and show love to the person in the painting.