

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON  
OCTOBER 11, 2020  
TREATING OTHERS WELL

In our lesson this week we are going to learn from David's example how to return good for evil. We will be thinking about revenge and fairness. When somebody gets what they deserve do you cheer and clap? Here is a story about Jeremy. Sometimes Jeremy doesn't always think about what he should do. Like talking during a test. Jeremy was so excited to tell Brandon about a sleepover he was going to have. Jeremy didn't mean to get Brandon in trouble by breaking the rules. He just forgot.

Later Jeremy was looking at a window that someone had spray painted the night before. The teacher, Mrs. Miller, thought he had done it. Jeremy had made a lot of mistakes and he got blamed for everything. It just wasn't fair.

Do you think Jeremy got what he deserved? How would you defend what Jeremy did? What could you say to show that Jeremy was innocent or guilty?

Do you think it is right to feel good when someone gets what he deserves? Why?

In this week Bible story we are going to learn about someone who had been bullied and mistreated for years. This person has done nothing to deserve this treatment. Will the "bully" receive what he deserves? Will the person he has been mistreating get revenge? Let's see.

King Saul was making life hard for David. David and his men were kept on the run, always fearful that King Saul would find them and kill them. When David heard that the Philistines had attacked the city of Keilah, he convinced his men that they should go and fight for the city and that God would give them victory. When David's men saved Keilah, Jonathan met with David and encouraged him to keep trusting God. For many days David hid in the Desert of Ziph while King Saul hunted for him. The Ziphite people found David and reported to King Saul. David feared that he would not be able to escape. As King Saul and his men closed in on David, the king got word that the Philistines had attacked his land causing the king to stop hunting David and go fight the Philistines instead.

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7.

Why do you think David cut off a piece of Saul's robe?

Why would David's conscience bother him about the way that he treated Saul?

How did David's attitude differ from the way his men acted?

Read 1 Samuel 24:8-11 and 16-17.

Why didn't David kill Saul?

Do you think David would have had a good reason to kill Saul?

Read 1 Samuel 24:12-13.

What was David trusting God to do?

How does this help explain why he treated Saul the way he did?

How do you think Saul was feeling after David said this?

How do you think David's kindness affected Saul?

Romans 12:17 tells us "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody." When people treat us badly, it can seem fair to do the same thing to them. David shows us that there is another way. God's way is to treat others well no matter how they treat us,

In our Bible lesson we learned that David chose not to hurt Saul even though Saul had been trying to kill David. I want you to use your imagination and picture 2 friends talking at recess time. We will say their names are Jenna and Morgan.

Jenna asks Morgan, "Why aren't you playing Four Square?"

Morgan replies, "I've got better things to do. Some things are more important."

Jenna asks, "Like what? What is better than playing Four Square? You will lose your title as Four Square Champ if you don't play."

Morgan tells her, "Drake tripped me."

Jenna says, "And you hurt your leg and can't move. Why didn't you tell me? I will get the teacher."

Jenna starts to go get the teacher but Morgan stops her. "I'm fine. He only made me stumble."

Jenna asks Morgan, "Did this just happen?"

Morgan replies, "No, we were in line to come out for recess. Drake stuck out his foot and tripped me."

Jenna asks, "I don't get it. Why are you still sitting here?"

Morgan replies, "I'm going to get even with him. I've sat here and thought about it a lot, I'm really close to a plan."

Jenna asks, "You have done nothing all recess but sit here and be mad?"

Morgan tells Jenna, "You don't understand. If I can figure out how to trip Drake, I'll make sure he doesn't just stumble—he will fall hard."

Jenna then tells her, "And to figure out how to get even with Drake you are going to give up your whole recess?"

Morgan says, "Well, I don't want to use my whole recess, but I just can't let this go."

Jenna asks, "Why not? Why don't you just forgive him and get on with having fun?"

Morgan replies, "He ruined my recess."

Jenna points out to Morgan, "You're sitting here by yourself instead of playing. Who's ruining your recess? Look, Drake may have tripped you at the start, and that was wrong. But now you're holding on to your mad feelings and ruining your whole recess. You should do this God's way – it is definitely better than getting even. If you forgive Drake, then you can come and have fun with the rest of us."

Morgan replies, "But if I forgive him, I have to forget what he did to me."

Jenna tells Morgan, "Then you will be like David in the Bible. King Saul was really mean to him – really awful. But when David had a chance to hurt Saul back, he didn't do it. Instead David treated Saul well – and he did it over and over again."

Morgan answers, "I didn't think about it like that. Getting even is hard work and it's not a lot of fun. O.K. I'd rather be like David than King Saul. I will forgive Drake for tripping me. Boy, I feel a lot better."

Jenna then asks, "Are you ready to go play?"

Morgan answers, "Yeah. I think I will even ask Drake if he wants to play with us."

Jenna response, "Now, that is forgiving like David."

Morgan adds, "But he better be careful – I'm the Four Square Champion, you know."

How did Morgan feel when Drake tripped her? What did she do?

When someone treats you badly, how can you treat him or her well?

We have been talking about the importance of treating others with kindness even when they have treated us poorly. This isn't easy to do and God understands that. Yet, he still wants us to trust Him and leave the judging of others to Him.

How do you think God will help us when we are kind to others who mistreat us?

What are some things you can do to remind you to be kind to others, even when they aren't nice to us?

What are some things you can say or do when someone is unkind to you?

We have all had people do unkind things to us, some situations seem worse than others. Sometimes people are just plain mean and hateful and other times the same people continue to be unkind to us – over and over again. God knows how hard those times are, but He still want us to trust him and have faith. If we follow his teachings, we will experience the best he has for us.

Let's close with a prayer. Heavenly Father, please give us the courage and strength to treat others well even when they treat us badly. Help us to remember that we can be like David and treat those who treat us badly with kindness, over and over again. Amen.