



Worship & Devotional Guides

— BOOK 4 —

RELATIONSHIPS



50 Bible Promises
with Matching Scripture Songs,
Bible Stories, True Stories,
and Family Activities



TOPICS INCLUDED:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Loving Others | 6. Hospitality/Service |
| 2. Selfishness/Pride | 7. Getting Along |
| 3. Obedience | 8. Hurt Feelings |
| 4. Speech/Honesty | 9. Forgiveness/Revenge |
| 5. Gossip | 10. Persecution |



Loving Others — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#151) — KJV

John 13:34–35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Jesus commands us to love each other exactly the way He loved us! Our love for one another is the greatest proof to the entire world that we are His disciples.

📖 Bible Story (Acts 9 & 11)

After Saul became a believer in Jesus, many Christians in Jerusalem were afraid of him. They remembered how he had once treated the followers of Jesus, and they were not sure they could trust him. Saul may have felt lonely and rejected.

But one man chose to love him. His name was Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement." While others stepped back in fear, Barnabas stepped forward in kindness. He listened to Saul's story and believed that God had truly changed his heart.

Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles and spoke up for him. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord and had boldly preached in the name of Jesus. Because of Barnabas's encouragement, Saul was received by the believers.

Barnabas did not stop there. Later, when the church in Antioch was growing, Barnabas remembered Saul. He traveled to Tarsus to find him and brought him back to Antioch.

For a whole year, Barnabas and Saul worked together, teaching the believers and helping the church grow strong. Barnabas did not try to keep all the important work for himself. He loved Saul enough to make room for him.

Barnabas's story reminds us that loving others means more than being friendly. It means encouraging people, believing God can change them, and helping them do the work God has given them. When we love like Jesus, our kindness can help someone else grow strong in the Lord.

☀️ True Story

In 2011, two young brothers named Conner and Cayden Long showed the world a beautiful picture of love. Cayden was born with a condition called cerebral palsy. Because of this, he could not walk or talk on his own.

Many children with this condition might be left behind during fun sports. But Conner refused to let his little brother sit on the sidelines alone. He wanted Cayden to experience the deep joy of racing together.

Conner decided they would compete in youth triathlons together. A triathlon is a long, tiring race with swimming, biking, and running. Doing this long race alone is hard, but Conner chose to do it while carrying Cayden.

During the swimming part, Conner swam through the water while pulling Cayden safely in a raft. Next, Conner rode his bicycle, pulling Cayden behind him in a special trailer. Finally, Conner ran toward the finish line while pushing Cayden in a stroller.

Conner could have raced by himself. He could have run much faster and maybe even won a first place gold medal. Instead, his love for his brother was stronger than his desire to win.

Seeing Cayden smile and laugh during the long race brought Conner his very greatest joy in life. In 2012, they were named Sports Illustrated Kids of the Year for their beautiful teamwork. Their wonderful story reminds us that true love means sharing your happiness with others. When we love other people well each day, we make sure they are never left behind.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why were the Christians in Jerusalem so terrified of Saul?
- How did Conner make sure his brother Cayden was not left behind during the triathlon?
- Who is someone you can show kindness to this week so they feel included and not left behind?

🎨 Activity:

Cut small strips of colorful paper. Have the children write or draw a specific way they can show love to a family member or friend on each strip. Link the strips together with tape or glue to create a paper chain. Hang the chain in a visible spot to remind everyone that our love and encouragement connects us together just like Barnabas connected Saul to the church!

Loving Others — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#152) — KJV

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Jesus showed us that the greatest way to love someone is by making sacrifices for them. He proved this by giving His own life so that we could be forgiven and live with Him forever.

📖 Bible Story (Matt. 27 & Luke 23)

Jesus is the rightful King of the universe. He had power to calm storms, heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead with a word.

When soldiers came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus could have called angels to rescue Him. No one could have taken His life from Him unless He chose to give it. But Jesus did not run away.

He knew the suffering that was ahead. He knew He would be mocked, beaten, and nailed to a cross. Still, He chose to stay because He loved us.

While Jesus hung on the cross, people mocked Him and told Him to save Himself. But if Jesus had saved Himself, He could not have saved us. He stayed on the cross so that sinners could be forgiven and brought back to God.

Jesus was not thinking of His own comfort or safety. He was thinking of the people He came to save. He carried the heavy burden of the world's sin because His love was stronger than the pain.

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Then He showed that love by giving His own life for us.

His sacrifice teaches us what true love is. Real love is not selfish. It gives, serves, and thinks of others. Jesus laid down His life so we could be forgiven, set free, and live with Him forever.

☀️ True Story

In 1912, a pastor named John Harper sailed across the ocean on the Titanic. He was traveling with his little daughter, Nana, to preach in America.

One cold night, the great ship struck an iceberg and began to sink. People were frightened, and there were not enough lifeboats for everyone. John quickly made sure his little girl was placed safely in a lifeboat.

Then John stayed behind.

He could have spent those last moments thinking only about himself. He could have pushed toward a lifeboat or tried to find some way to save his own life. But John's heart was fixed on helping others before it was too late.

As the ship sank lower, he moved among the passengers and pointed them to Jesus. He knew many people were afraid and unprepared to die. Instead of becoming silent with fear, he used his last strength to speak words of hope.

When the ship went down, John was thrown into the icy water. Even there, he kept thinking of others. As people struggled in the dark sea, he called out to them and urged them to turn their hearts to Christ.

John Harper's story reminds us that love is not selfish. True love does not ask, "How can I protect myself first?" It asks, "How can I help someone else?" Most of us will never face a night like the Titanic, but every day we can practice Christlike love by giving our time, comfort, attention, and help to the people around us.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus choose to stay on the cross instead of saving Himself?
- How did John Harper demonstrate the kind of self-sacrificing love that Jesus talked about?
- What is one practical way you can show unselfish love to a friend or family member today?

🎨 Activity:

Scatter a few small rugs, or couch cushions around the room to represent "lifeboats." Play some ocean-sounding music and have the children "swim" around the room. When the music stops, everyone must get inside a lifeboat—but make sure there is one less spot than there are people! Teach the children that instead of fighting for the last spot, someone must bravely step out of the lifeboat and offer their spot to a sibling, saying: "You need this more than I do!"

Loving Others — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#153) — KJV

Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

Galatians 5:14–15 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God says that the only thing we should ever "owe" anyone is love! When we generously choose to love and help other people, we are perfectly obeying all of God's rules.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 10)

Jesus told a story to show what it really means to love our neighbor. A man was traveling down the steep road from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him. They hurt him badly, took his things, and left him lying beside the road.

After a while, a priest came down the same road. He saw the injured man, but he passed by on the other side. Then a Levite came along. He also saw the man, but he did not stop to help. Both men knew God's law, but they did not show God's love.

Then a Samaritan came down the road. The Jews and Samaritans were not friendly with each other, so he could have said, "This man is not my people. This is not my problem." But when he saw the wounded man, his heart was moved with compassion.

The Samaritan stopped. He went close to the man, cleaned and bandaged his wounds, and gently placed him on his own animal. Then he brought him to an inn where he could rest and be cared for.

The next day, the Samaritan paid the innkeeper and promised to give more if the man needed extra care. He did not only feel sorry for the hurting man. He gave his time, his money, and his strength to help him.

Jesus' story teaches us that loving others means more than kind feelings or nice words. Our neighbor is anyone God places near us who needs help. When we love like Jesus, we notice hurting people, come close instead of passing by, and do what we can to show mercy.

☀️ True Story

In 2015, a six-year-old boy named Christian McPhilamy saw a television commercial that touched his heart. It showed children with cancer who had lost their hair during treatment. Christian felt sad for them and wanted to do something kind.

He learned that people could donate long hair to help make wigs for children who were sick. So Christian made a decision. He would grow his hair long and give it away.

For two and a half years, Christian let his blond hair grow until it reached far down his back. Some children teased him. Sometimes adults thought he was a girl or told him he should get a haircut. Their words were not easy to hear.

But Christian remembered why he was doing it. He was not growing his hair to get attention. He was preparing a gift for children who needed comfort. Each day he kept growing his hair was another quiet way of saying, "I care about you." His love for them helped him keep going when people did not understand.

When his hair was finally long enough, Christian had it cut into several ponytails and sent it away to be made into wigs. What had taken him years to grow became a gift for someone else.

Christian's story reminds us that love is more than feeling sorry for someone. Love is willing to give, wait, endure discomfort, and think about another person's needs. When we love like Jesus, we look for practical ways to bring comfort and kindness to others.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did the priest and the Levite cross the road instead of helping the injured man?
- What incredibly generous thing did Oseola do with all of her hard-earned money?
- How is arguing with a sibling the exact opposite of being a Good Samaritan?

🎬 Activity:

Give your children a roll of toilet paper to act as bandages. Have someone sit across the room as the "injured traveler." Say "Go!" and have the children run across the room to quickly and gently wrap "bandages" around the traveler's arms or legs. Discuss how the Good Samaritan didn't just feel bad for the hurt man; he took immediate action to carefully bandage his wounds and show him true love!

Loving Others — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#154) — KJV

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that true love never gives up! When we love others the way Jesus loves us, our love will be patient, kind, and strong enough to endure absolutely anything without failing.

📖 Bible Story (Hosea 1 & 3)

God gave the prophet Hosea a difficult assignment. He told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer, even though she would not always be faithful to him. Hosea obeyed God and loved her.

For a while, they had a home and family together. But Gomer turned away from Hosea and chose a different path. Her choices brought sorrow to Hosea's heart.

Later, Gomer's life became broken and painful. She could not rescue herself. It would have been easy for Hosea to say, "She hurt me. I will not help her." But God told Hosea to go and love her again.

So Hosea went to find Gomer. He paid a price of silver and barley to bring her back. Hosea's love was not only a feeling in his heart; it became an action that cost him something. He went after the one who had hurt him because God wanted His people to understand how faithful His own love is.

Hosea's love for Gomer was a picture of God's love for His people. Again and again, they had turned away from Him, but God still called them back. His love was not weak or careless; it was strong enough to keep reaching for the ones He longed to save. He wanted to forgive them, heal them, and bring them home.

Hosea's story reminds us that love does not give up quickly. Loving others does not mean sin is good or that wrong choices do not hurt. But God's kind of love is patient, faithful, and willing to forgive. When we love like God loves us, we seek to restore instead of only pushing people away.

☀️ True Story

In 1956, Elisabeth Elliot's husband, Jim, traveled with four other missionaries into the jungles of Ecuador. They wanted to share God's love with the Waodani people, a tribe that had very little contact with the outside world.

The missionaries hoped to come in peace, but the meeting ended in tragedy. Waodani warriors attacked, and Jim Elliot and the other four men were killed.

Elisabeth was left alone with her little daughter. Her heart was deeply wounded. It would have been easy for her to hate the people who had caused so much pain.

But Elisabeth chose a different way. She prayed, learned more of their language, and kept asking God to help her love as Jesus loved. Later, she and her young daughter went to live among the same people who had killed her husband. That choice was not easy, and it did not mean her sorrow disappeared. But Elisabeth kept giving her pain to God and asking Him to make His love stronger than bitterness in her heart.

Elisabeth cared for them, learned from them, and shared the love of Jesus with them. Her forgiving love helped the Waodani see a different kind of life. Some of the very men involved in the attack later gave their hearts to Christ.

This story shows that love is stronger than revenge. Loving others does not mean hurt is not real. It means we give our pain to God and ask Him to fill our hearts with His love. When we choose forgiveness, kindness, and mercy, God can use even deep sorrow to show others what Jesus is like.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Gomer do to break Hosea's heart after they built a family together?
- Instead of hating the men who hurt her family, what incredible thing did Elisabeth Elliot do?
- First Corinthians 13 says love is "patient and kind." When is it the hardest for you to show patient, kind love to someone else?

🎨 Activity:

Write 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 on a whiteboard, drawing a blank line instead of the word "love." Have the children write their names on sticky notes. Let them take turns placing their name in the blanks and reading the sentence aloud (e.g., "Sarah suffers long"). Ask the group which phrase was hardest to say about themselves, then pray together for Jesus to help them practice that specific love.

Loving Others — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#155) — KJV

1 John 4:7–8 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that He is pure, perfect love! When we choose to show deep, caring love to people who are usually ignored or left out, it proves to the world that we truly know Him.

📖 Bible Story (Mark 1)

In Bible times, having leprosy was very painful and lonely. People with leprosy had to leave their homes and live outside the city. When others came near, they had to warn them to stay away.

Many lepers went for years without feeling the touch of a friend. People were afraid of them, and they often felt forgotten and unwanted.

One day, a man with leprosy saw Jesus coming. Hope rose in his heart. He fell down before Jesus and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

The people nearby may have stepped back, expecting Jesus to stay away. But Jesus did not look at the man with disgust. He did not treat him as if he were too dirty or too broken to love.

Jesus reached out His hand and touched him.

Then Jesus said, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately, the leprosy left the man, and he was healed.

Jesus could have healed him from far away with only a word. But He chose to come close and touch the man no one else wanted to touch. His love brought healing not only to the man's body, but also to his lonely heart.

This story reminds us that loving others means noticing people who feel left out, unwanted, or alone. We may not be able to heal sickness like Jesus did, but we can show His love by coming close, speaking kindly, and treating hurting people as precious.

☀️ True Story

In the 1800s, many people were terribly afraid of a sickness called leprosy. In the islands of Hawaii, anyone who caught this disease was sent away to a rocky island called Molokai. It was a sad, lonely place where sick people were separated from their families and left with very little comfort or help.

In 1873, a missionary named Damien De Veuster realized these forgotten people desperately needed care. He volunteered to move to the isolated island, knowing he might never be allowed to leave. He wanted them to know they were not forgotten by God.

When Damien arrived, he did not stand far away and wave. He chose to live right in the middle of their camp! He helped build wooden houses, planted beautiful gardens, and carefully bandaged their sore skin with his own hands. He ate meals with them, sang songs, and treated them like true friends instead of outcasts. To people who had been pushed away by almost everyone, Damien's nearness felt like a message that they still mattered.

After many years of faithful service, Damien also caught the disease. Still, he continued loving and serving the people until the very end, giving his entire life to bring joy back to the island.

Damien's story demonstrates that true love does not turn away from people who are hurting. We can love others by stepping closer instead of avoiding them, helping with real needs, and treating lonely people with kindness. When we love like Jesus, we show people that they are never forgotten.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Instead of backing away from the leper, what incredible thing did Jesus do before He healed him?
- What did Damien do to show the sick people that God still loved them?
- First John 4 says that "God is love." Who is someone at your school or in your neighborhood who seems lonely or ignored that you can show God's love to today?

🎨 Activity:

Sit together in a circle and grab a soft beanbag or a small pillow. The person holding the beanbag chooses someone across the circle and shares one specific, kind thing they deeply appreciate about them. Explain that kind words are like a "healing touch" to someone's heart! After sharing, carefully toss or pass the beanbag to that person. Continue passing and sharing until every single person has had a turn to feel loved and hear a compliment!

Selfishness/Pride — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#156) — KJV

Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

💖 Apply the Promise!

True greatness does not come from bragging or pride. When you choose to be humble and put God first, He will reward your life with true honor, joy, and lasting blessings!

📖 Bible Story (Judges 7 & 8)

The Israelites were facing a large army of enemies called the Midianites. Gideon gathered thousands of soldiers to protect his people, but God told him the army was too large.

If Israel won with so many soldiers, the people might become proud and say, "We saved ourselves." God wanted them to understand that victory came from Him, not from their own strength.

So God made Gideon's army smaller and smaller until only three hundred men were left. They did not carry swords into battle. They carried trumpets, empty pitchers, and torches.

That night, Gideon and his men quietly surrounded the Midianite camp. At the signal, they broke their pitchers, held up their torches, blew their trumpets, and shouted. God confused the enemy army, and the Midianites fled.

Israel had won a great victory, but it was clear that God had done it. Gideon and his men could not brag about their numbers, weapons, or strength.

Afterward, the people wanted Gideon to rule over them. It would have been easy for him to take the honor for himself. But Gideon answered, "I will not rule over you. The Lord shall rule over you."

In that moment, Gideon pointed the people back to God. His story reminds us that pride wants to take the credit, but humility gives the glory to the Lord. When God helps us succeed, we can remember that every gift, talent, and victory comes from Him.

☀️ True Story

In the 1940s, an Italian cyclist named Gino Bartali became world-famous. He won the Tour de France and was celebrated as a hero. People cheered for him wherever he rode his bicycle.

During World War II, a dark time came to Europe. Many Jewish families were in danger and needed to escape to safety. Gino decided to use his fame as a cyclist to secretly help them.

He took a hollow bicycle frame and hid life-saving documents inside the metal tubes. Then, he rode his bicycle through the mountains for hundreds of miles. Soldiers thought he was just training for his next race.

Because he was a famous athlete, the guards never searched his bicycle. Gino quietly delivered the secret papers to hidden families. His secret deliveries helped save the lives of hundreds of people during the war.

After the war ended, Gino remained a quiet and humble man. He never held a press conference to tell the world about his good deeds. He never wrote a book to brag about the families he had rescued.

Gino believed that good deeds should be done quietly. He once told his son that certain medals are pinned to the soul, not the jacket. He wanted to do what was right without getting any praise. Gino's story reminds us that humility does not need applause. Pride wants everyone to notice, but love is willing to serve quietly. When we do good, we can let God see it, even if no one else ever knows.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the Israelites want Gideon to do after he defeated the Midianite army?
- How did Gino Bartali use his bicycle to secretly help people during the war?
- Proverbs 22:4 says humility brings honor. How can you show humility when you win a game or do something really well?

🎨 Activity:

Have children draw a happy face or write a kind note on small pieces of paper. Challenge them to secretly "smuggle" these notes into someone else's space (like a shoe or a bag) without being caught. The hardest rule is they can never brag or tell the person they did it! Discuss how doing good deeds in secret, like Gino Bartali, keeps our hearts humble.

Selfishness/Pride — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#157) — KJV

Jeremiah 9:23–24 "...Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

💖 Apply the Promise!

True greatness isn't found in how smart, strong, or rich we are. If we brag about anything, we should humbly brag that we know God, because knowing Him is the greatest treasure in the world!

📖 Bible Story (Daniel 4)

King Nebuchadnezzar ruled the great empire of Babylon. He commanded armies, conquered nations, and lived in a beautiful palace. But the king had a serious pride problem. He forgot that every gift, every kingdom, and every breath comes from God.

God sent Nebuchadnezzar a dream to warn him. The prophet Daniel explained that the king would lose his throne unless he turned away from his pride and showed mercy. But Nebuchadnezzar did not listen.

One year later, the king was walking on the roof of his palace. He looked out over the great city of Babylon and began to boast. He spoke as if his own power and greatness had built everything.

While the proud words were still in his mouth, a voice spoke from heaven. God said the kingdom was being taken from him. Nebuchadnezzar lost his understanding and lived outside like an animal. For seven years, he ate grass like an ox, and his hair and nails grew long.

At last, Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes to heaven. He stopped praising himself and honored the God who rules over all. Then his understanding returned, and God allowed him to become king again.

Nebuchadnezzar's story shows us that pride makes us forget where our blessings come from. When we are smart, strong, successful, or praised by others, we do not need to lift ourselves up. We can humbly remember that God gives every ability, and knowing Him is greater than any earthly honor.

☀️ True Story

In the 1900s, Robert G. LeTourneau became a successful inventor and businessman. He designed large earthmoving machines that helped build roads, dams, and airports. His ideas changed the way many construction jobs were done.

Many people admired his skill. His company grew, his machines became famous, and he earned a great deal of money. It would have been easy for Robert to become proud and say, "Look what I have done."

But Robert believed his abilities came from God. He did not want his success to make him selfish. Instead, he wanted his work and money to serve the Lord. The more his business grew, the more carefully he tried to remember that success was not something to worship. He saw his company as a tool God had trusted to him, not as a throne for his own pride.

Robert and his wife chose to live on a small part of their income and give much of the rest away. They supported missions, Christian education, and other work for God. Robert often said that he was not giving God's money away—he was keeping only part of what already belonged to God.

He did not want people to remember him only as a rich man or a clever inventor. He wanted his life to point to the Lord who had helped him.

Robert LeTourneau's life gives us a different picture of success. Humility is not pretending we have no gifts. It means remembering where our gifts came from and using them for God's glory. When God gives us money, skills, ideas, or success, we can choose service instead of selfish pride.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What happened to the king when God punished him for his terrible pride?
- What did Robert LeTourneau choose to do with the money his business earned?
- Jeremiah 9 tells us not to brag about being smart, strong, or rich. If we want to brag, what is the only thing we should ever brag about?

🎨 Activity:

Gather in a circle and explain that usually, bragging is a bad thing because it comes from pride. But Jeremiah says we can brag about how amazing God is! Set a timer for two minutes and take turns rapidly "bragging" about God. You can say things like, "My God created the stars!" or "My God healed my sickness!" or "My God is stronger than any army!" See how many wonderful things you can loudly boast about God before the timer goes off!



Today's Promise (#158) — KJV

Matthew 20:26–28 "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The greatest people in God's kingdom aren't the ones who act like bosses and demand to be served. True greatness means happily putting your pride away to serve others with a humble heart!

📖 Bible Story (John 13)

Jesus and His disciples gathered in an upper room for a special supper. In those days, people walked on dusty roads wearing sandals, so their feet became dirty and tired.

Usually, a servant would wash everyone's feet before a meal. But that evening, there was no servant in the room. The disciples could have helped each other, but none of them wanted the lowly job. They had even been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

Then Jesus did something that surprised them. He stood up from the supper, took off His outer garment, wrapped a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin.

The King of heaven knelt on the floor and began washing His disciples' dirty feet. He did not wait for the disciples to become humble first. He showed them humility by doing the very job they were too proud to do. One by one, He washed and dried them, doing the work of a servant.

When Jesus finished, He explained the lesson. If He, their Lord and Master, was willing to serve them, then they should be willing to serve one another.

Jesus was teaching that true greatness is not found in acting important or being first. In His kingdom, the greatest person is the one who loves enough to serve.

This helps us see that pride waits for someone else to do the hard or unpleasant job, but humility steps forward to help. When we serve without complaining, we are following the example of Jesus.

☀️ True Story

In the late 1800s, Booker T. Washington became a respected educator in America. He helped build Tuskegee Institute, taught many students, and became a leader whom important people listened to.

Because of his position, it would have been easy for him to feel too important for ordinary work. But Booker did not believe greatness meant demanding special treatment. He believed in humility, service, and hard work.

One day, Dr. Washington was walking through a neighborhood when a woman who did not recognize him called out to him. She thought he was a worker passing by and asked if he would chop some firewood for her.

Booker could have been offended. He could have told her who he was and refused the job. Instead, he quietly took off his coat, picked up the ax, and chopped the wood. His greatness was shown, not by refusing the work, but by being willing to do it cheerfully.

Then he carried the wood into her house. Later, when the woman learned who had helped her, she felt embarrassed and went to apologize.

Dr. Washington kindly told her that he was glad to help. He did not need to prove that he was important. His humble spirit was greater than any title people could give him.

Booker T. Washington's choice gives us a picture of true honor. Pride says, "I am too important for this." Humility says, "I can help." When we are willing to serve in simple ways, we show the spirit of Jesus.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why didn't any of the disciples want to wash feet before supper?
- How did Booker T. Washington respond when asked to chop wood?
- Matthew 20 says the greatest person is a servant. What is one specific way you can serve your parents or siblings today without complaining?

🎨 Activity:

Give the children a washcloth and a small basin of warm water. Have them practice showing Christlike humility by carefully washing and drying each other's hands or feet. Discuss how Jesus, the King of the universe, chose to do the lowest job to teach His disciples that true greatness means serving others with a happy heart.

Selfishness/Pride — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#159) — KJV

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." **1 Corinthians 4:7** "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" **James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." **John 3:27** "...A man can receive nothing, except it be given him

💖 Apply the Promise!

Absolutely every good thing we have is a beautiful gift from heaven! If we let foolish pride trick us into thinking we are great all by ourselves, it will always lead to a terrible fall.

📖 Bible Story (2 Chronicles 26)

Uzziah became king of Judah when he was sixteen years old. During his early years, he sought the Lord and listened to godly counsel. As long as he looked to God, the Lord helped him.

God gave Uzziah great success. He built towers, dug wells, strengthened the army, and became a powerful king. People respected him, and his kingdom grew strong.

But success brought danger to Uzziah's heart. Instead of remembering that God had helped him, he began to think too highly of himself. His heart was lifted up with pride.

One day, Uzziah went into the temple to burn incense on the altar. God had given that work only to the priests, but Uzziah acted as if being king allowed him to do whatever he wanted.

Eighty priests followed him into the temple and warned him to leave. They were trying to protect him from sin. But Uzziah did not listen. Instead of accepting correction, he became angry.

While he stood there with the incense in his hand, leprosy broke out on his forehead. The priests hurried him out, and Uzziah himself rushed to leave because he knew God had judged his pride.

From then on, Uzziah had to live in a separate house because of his leprosy. His son Jotham took care of the king's duties for him. Uzziah's life shows how dangerous pride can be. When we forget that our strength, talents, and success come from God, our hearts become foolish. Humility listens to correction, obeys God's limits, and gives Him honor for every blessing.

☀️ True Story

In spring 2015, college athletes gathered in Oregon for a track competition. A runner named Tanguy Pepiot was competing in a long footrace. As he reached the final stretch, he took a large lead.

Pepiot was far ahead of the other runners on the track. He felt certain that he was going to win the gold medal. Instead of running hard to the end, his heart became proud.

Just steps away from the finish line, the proud runner slowed down. He started waving his hands and pointing to the cheering crowd. He wanted everyone in the stadium to applaud his easy victory.

Because he was busy showing off, he made a foolish mistake. He did not look over his shoulder to check the track behind him. He did not see another runner named Meron Simon approaching him.

Simon had not given up, and he was still running his hardest. While Pepiot was busy waving, the Simon zoomed right past him. Simon crossed the finish line at the last second and won.

Pepiot realized his mistake too late and fell to the ground. He lost the race because he celebrated his greatness before the work was done. His pride caused him to lose at the very end.

This story teaches us that showing off will often cost us a victory. When we become boastful, we stop paying attention to the important things. We win in life when we stay focused and keep a humble heart.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible mistake did Uzziah make when he walked into the temple?
- How did Tanguy Pepiot lose the footrace right before he crossed the finish line?
- First Corinthians 4:7 asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?" What is one talent or gift you have that you need to remember to thank God for today?

🎨 Activity:

Have the children build a tower out of blocks, making it as tall as they possibly can. Discuss how the taller and more "puffed up" the tower gets, the more it wobbles! Explain that pride makes us think we are standing tall, but it makes our hearts weak. Have them loudly shout, "Pride comes before a fall!" and knock the tower completely down!

Selfishness/Pride — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#160) — KJV

Philippians 2:5–8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

💖 Apply the Promise!

True love means putting others first! Jesus left the spectacular glory of heaven to become a humble human servant for us, and He wants us to have that exact same humble attitude every day.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 2 & Phil. 2)

Jesus is the Creator of the universe. Before He came to earth, He lived in the perfect glory of heaven. Angels constantly sang praises to Him, and He possessed all power.

Humans had a serious problem with sin, and we could not save ourselves. The only way to fix this broken relationship was for Jesus to come down to earth. He chose to make a great sacrifice.

When the King of heaven finally arrived, He did not come the way people expected. He did not march out of the clouds with a powerful army. He did not demand to be born in a palace.

He did not ask for wealthy servants to attend to His every need. Instead, Jesus made Himself of no reputation. He completely humbled Himself to become a servant for us.

He traded the beauty of heaven for a dusty stable filled with noisy animals. The mighty Creator became a tiny, helpless baby. He was wrapped in simple cloth and laid in a wooden feeding trough.

Jesus willingly gave up His heavenly privileges to live a simple, difficult life. He stepped off His royal throne and walked right into our messy world. He did this so He could ultimately save us.

This story teaches us that true greatness means putting others first. Jesus showed us what selfless love looks like by becoming a servant. We show humility when we choose to serve the people around us.

☀️ True Story

In the late 1600s, Peter Romanov ruled as the king of Russia. He lived in giant palaces, wore crowns covered in diamonds, and sat on a velvet throne. Thousands of servants obeyed his commands.

Peter realized his country had a serious problem. The Russian workers did not know how to build large, strong ships. He knew his nation was falling behind the rest of the world.

A proud king would have stayed comfortable and demanded that his servants figure it out. Peter made a surprising choice. He took off his royal robes and put on the rough clothes of a common worker.

He traveled far away to a busy shipyard in Holland. He quietly hid his true identity from the people there. The mighty ruler of Russia decided to work as a lowly carpenter.

For months, Peter spent his days working in the dirt. He swung a heavy hammer and sawed thick pieces of wood. He even took orders from a boss who had no idea he was a king.

Peter laid his pride aside to learn the difficult trade of shipbuilding. After mastering the craft, he brought his new skills back to Russia. He taught his people how to build a strong navy.

Peter's choice gives us a picture of humility. Pride says, "I am too important for hard or messy work." Humility says, "I can learn. I can work. I can serve." True greatness is not found in demanding to be served, but in being willing to lower ourselves to help others.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Instead of a golden palace, where was the King of the universe born?
- What surprising thing did King Peter do to help build ships for his country?
- Philippians 2 says we should have the "same mind" (or attitude) as Jesus. What is one way you can give up something you want today to put someone else first?

🎨 Activity:

Give each child a paper crown to decorate and have them write something they love or are proud of on it (like a favorite toy, a talent, or a prize). Place a basket in the middle of the room or classroom labeled "Putting Others First." Ask the children to humbly take off their crowns and place them in the basket, trading them for a small hand towel or a sticker that says "Servant." Discuss how Jesus willingly traded His heavenly crown to serve us.

Obedience — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#161) — KJV

Deuteronomy 11:26–28 “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God....”
Joshua 24:15 “...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

💖 Apply the Promise!

Following God is a daily choice! When we bravely choose to obey Him—even when it is difficult or unpopular—He will always bless our courage.

📖 Bible Story (Joshua 24)

When Joshua was an old man, he gathered all the tribes of Israel together to give them one final message. He reminded them of everything God had done for them. The Lord had brought them out of slavery, cared for them in the wilderness, and given them the promised land.

But Joshua knew the people had an important choice to make. They could not serve the Lord with only half their hearts. Some were still holding onto the false gods their families had known before.

Joshua spoke plainly. He told the people to put away their idols and serve the Lord sincerely. Obedience could not be only words. If they truly loved God, they needed to choose Him fully.

Then Joshua said, “Choose today whom you will serve.” He was asking them to stop hesitating and decide whose voice they would follow.

Joshua did not wait to see what everyone else would do. He had already made his choice. He said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua’s words show that obedience begins with a settled heart. We cannot follow God and hold onto sin at the same time. Each day, we must choose whose voice we will listen to.

When we choose to serve the Lord, we are saying, “God, I belong to You. I will listen to Your Word, follow Your way, and obey You with my whole heart.”

☀️ True Story

In 1852, a young man named Hudson Taylor was studying in England to become a doctor. He was poor and lived simply, but he wanted to obey God in everything.

One evening, a man asked Hudson to come visit his sick wife. When Hudson arrived, he found the family in a cold, dark room. The mother was ill, the children were hungry, and there was no food in the house.

Hudson reached into his pocket and felt his last coin. It was the only money he had left. He knew he needed it for his own food, but he also knew this family needed help right away.

At first, Hudson wanted to pray for them and leave. But his conscience would not let him rest. God’s Word had taught him to care for the poor, and now he had a choice to make.

Hudson could keep his last coin for himself, or he could obey the conviction God had placed in his heart. He quietly pulled out the coin and gave it to the family.

As soon as he obeyed, peace filled his heart. He had trusted God with his own need and helped the people in front of him.

The next morning, a small package came in the mail. Inside was a coin worth much more than the one Hudson had given away. God had provided for him in a way he did not expect.

Hudson Taylor’s choice shows that obedience is not only doing right when it is easy. Sometimes obedience costs us something. But when God shows us what is right, we can follow Him, help others, and trust our needs to His loving care.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Joshua tell the Israelites to throw away?
- How did Hudson Taylor feel when his conscience told him to give away his last coin?
- Joshua said, “Choose you this day.” What is one specific choice you can make today to bravely show others that you serve God?

🎨 Activity:

Take the kids outside and use a stick to draw a deep “line in the sand” in the dirt. On one side, write “The World” and on the other side, write “God’s Kingdom.” Have the children stand on the world’s side. Read Joshua 24:15 out loud together. When you read “Choose you this day,” have the children bravely jump across the line to God’s side! Discuss how following Jesus requires us to make a firm choice to cross the line and never look back.

Obedience — Day 2



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#162) — NKJV

Proverbs 6:20–23 "My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light..."

Apply the Promise!

The rules and instructions our parents give us are like a bright flashlight in the dark! When we choose to listen and obey, their loving wisdom will keep us safe, protect our hearts, and guide us to a beautiful life.

Bible Story (Luke 2)

When Jesus was twelve years old, He traveled with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. After the feast was over, Mary and Joseph began the long journey home to Nazareth with a large group of relatives and friends.

They thought Jesus was somewhere in the traveling group. But after a full day, they realized He was not with them. Their hearts filled with worry, and they hurried back to Jerusalem to search for Him.

After three days, they found Jesus in the temple. He was sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Mary asked Him why He had stayed behind. Jesus gently explained that He must be about His Father's business. He understood that God was His Father and that His life had a holy purpose.

Jesus had more wisdom than any earthly parent. He was the Son of God. Yet He did not use His wisdom as an excuse to ignore Mary and Joseph.

The Bible says Jesus went back to Nazareth with them and was subject to them. That means He willingly obeyed their authority in the home.

Jesus shows us that obedience to parents is part of honoring God. We do not obey only when we understand every rule or when the rule feels easy. A humble child listens, follows directions, and trusts that God is pleased when we honor the parents He has given us.

True Story

In February 2016, a five-year-old girl named Cloe Woods lived in Louisiana. A few months earlier, her class had taken a field trip to the local fire department to learn about safety. The firefighters taught the children exactly what to do if there was ever a fire.

One morning, a fire suddenly started on the stove, and the loud smoke alarm went off. Cloe was home with her blind grandmother and their dog.

Cloe could have frozen in fear, but she remembered the firm instructions she had been given. She quickly jumped out of bed and ran to her grandmother's room. She told her grandmother they needed to get outside immediately.

Her grandmother wanted to stop and find her shoes, but Cloe knew they had to obey the safety rules and be fast. Cloe bravely told her blind grandmother to hold onto her shoulder. She carefully guided her through the house, making sure their dog got out safely as well.

Once they were safely outside, Cloe even ran door-to-door to ask neighbors for help and a bucket of water. The fire chief later said her quick obedience completely saved her grandmother's life.

Cloe's story shows why obedience matters. She was safe because she listened, remembered, and obeyed quickly when the time came. Parents and trusted adults give instructions because they often see dangers children do not understand. When we obey right away, we learn to trust the loving guidance God has placed in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- Where did Mary and Joseph finally find Jesus after searching for three days?
- How did Cloe's decision to listen and obey right away help keep her family safe during the emergency?
- Proverbs 6 says your parents' rules are like a "lamp." What is one rule your parents have that acts like a lamp to keep you safe?

Activity:

Play a fast-paced game of "Jesus Says" (just like "Simon Says"). Give the children silly, illogical commands, like "cluck like a chicken while rubbing your belly" or "walk backwards in a circle." If a child asks "Why?", they are out! They must simply say, "Yes, Master!" and obey instantly. Discuss how even when Jesus was young, He chose to obey His parents. We should obey God and the authorities He places in our lives cheerfully, even when their instructions seem strange!

Obedience — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#163) — KJV

John 2:5 "His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Even when God's instructions seem confusing or don't make logical sense to our human minds, if we simply obey exactly what He says, He will always work a beautiful miracle.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 5 & John 2)

One morning, Jesus stood by the Sea of Galilee while a crowd pressed close to hear God's Word. He saw two fishing boats by the shore and stepped into Peter's boat. Then He asked Peter to push it out a little from the land so He could teach the people.

When Jesus finished speaking, He told Peter to row out into the deep water and let down his nets for a catch.

Peter was tired. He had worked all night and had caught nothing. He was an experienced fisherman, and going back out did not make sense. He knew the best time to catch fish was in the shallow water at night, not during the day.

But Peter did not argue. He said, "Master, we have worked all night and caught nothing." Then he added, "But because You say so, I will let down the net."

Peter obeyed even when he was tired. He obeyed even when he did not understand. He chose to trust Jesus' word more than his own feelings and experience.

When Peter let down the net, so many fish filled it that the net began to break. He had to call his friends to help, and soon both boats were full.

This helps us understand practical obedience. We do not obey God only when His instructions feel easy or when we already understand everything. When Jesus speaks through His Word, we can trust Him enough to do what He says. Obedience means listening, yielding our own way, and following Him one step at a time.

☀️ True Story

In the 1860s, a missionary named John Paton lived on a hot island called Aniwa. A long drought hit the land, and it stopped raining. The islanders needed fresh water.

John prayed and earnestly asked God to help the people. He felt God telling him to take a shovel and dig a deep hole into the dry dirt. He believed God would provide water.

To the people living on the island, this idea made no logical sense. They told John that water falls from the sky in the rain. They laughed and said water never comes up from the dusty ground.

It looked foolish to dig in the dry dirt while the sun was shining. The chief warned John that he would get too tired. But John knew he needed to follow God's instructions.

John put his own logic away and chose to obey. He worked hard and dug deep into the ground. Suddenly, his shovel struck a fresh, cool spring of water hidden under the earth.

The islanders were amazed by the fresh water bubbling up from the dirt. They realized that John's God was real and powerful. Because of this miracle, the whole village gave their hearts to Jesus.

John Paton's story shows that obedience is not always easy or understood by others. Sometimes God asks us to do something that feels difficult, slow, or even foolish to people around us. But when we trust Him enough to obey, He can use our faithfulness to bless others and bring honor to His name.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus' command make absolutely no logical sense to Peter's professional mind?
- Why did the islanders laugh at John Paton when he started digging in the dry dirt with his shovel?
- John 2:5 says, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." What is one specific thing God commands us to do in the Bible that sometimes feels difficult to obey?

🎬 Activity:

Set up a safe, open space and blindfold one child. Have a parent or teacher stand across the room and give them spoken instructions on how to reach them (e.g., "take two steps left, walk three steps forward"). The blindfolded child must carefully trust and obey the voice, even though they cannot see where they are going. Discuss how obeying God sometimes feels like wearing a blindfold, but we can always trust His voice to guide us!

Obedience — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#164) — KJV

Ephesians 6:1–3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Honoring and obeying your parents is the key to a blessed life! In fact, it is the very first commandment that comes with a special, guaranteed reward: when you treat your parents with respect, God promises to watch over you and bless your life.

📖 Bible Story (Jeremiah 35)

In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, the nation of Israel had become rebellious. They were constantly breaking God's laws and ignoring His prophets. So, God decided to use one family to teach the entire nation a lesson about obedience.

Hundreds of years before Jeremiah was born, a man named Jonadab gave his family, the Rechabites, some strict rules to protect them. He told them never to drink wine, never to build permanent houses, and to always live in tents. For over two hundred years, long after Jonadab died, his family faithfully obeyed his commands!

One day, God told Jeremiah to test them. Jeremiah brought the Rechabites into the holy temple, set large bowls of wine in front of them, and told them to drink. But they respectfully refused! They said, "We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us." Jeremiah was not trying to make them sin; God was using them as an object lesson.

God pointed to the Rechabites and said to Israel, "Look at these people! They perfectly obey the words of an earthly father who died hundreds of years ago, but you will not obey Me, the living God!"

Because the Rechabites so deeply honored their father's rules, God gave them a blessing. He promised that the Rechabite family would survive forever and always have someone to stand before God. They proved that faithfully honoring your parents brings God's greatest blessings!

☀️ True Story

In 2018, a ten-year-old girl named Jocelyn Rojas was walking near a park in San Tan Valley, Arizona. Suddenly, a white SUV pulled up beside them. The man inside told her that her brother had been in a serious accident and that she needed to get in the car with him. But the man was not telling the truth. He was trying to trick her into going with him.

This was a frightening moment. The girl cared about her brother, and the man wanted her to feel scared enough to obey him quickly. But her mother, Brenda, had already given her an important family rule.

A few months earlier, the family had chosen a secret code word. Her parents had taught her that if anyone she did not know ever came to pick her up, she should ask for the code word before going anywhere.

The girl remembered her mother's instruction. She did not ignore it. She did not get into the car. Instead, she looked at the man and asked, "What is the code word?"

The man did not know the answer. He froze and drove away.

Afterward, the sheriff praised the family for making a plan and teaching the girl what to do. Her obedience helped protect her from danger.

This story shows why it matters to listen carefully when parents give instructions. Sometimes a rule may seem small or unnecessary at the time, but later it can become very important. When children obey wise instruction, they are learning to trust the guidance God has placed in their lives.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the Rechabites do when Jeremiah offered them wine in the temple?
- How did Jocelyn's choice to remember her mother's instruction protect her from danger?
- Ephesians 6 says obeying parents is the first commandment "with promise." What does God promise to those who honor their parents?

🎨 Activity:

Give each child a piece of paper and a marker, then blindfold them. Give them step-by-step commands to draw shapes ("draw a large circle, now two triangles on top, now three lines on each side"). Because they can't see, the commands won't make sense! Have them remove the blindfolds to reveal they drew a cat! Discuss how God sees the big picture. When we faithfully follow His step-by-step commands, He turns our obedience into a masterpiece!

Obedience — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#165) — KJV

Ephesians 6:5–6 "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;"

💖 Apply the Promise!

When we do our chores or our jobs, we aren't really just working for our earthly bosses; we are actually working for Jesus! When we choose to obey our heavenly Master, we are doing the will of God from our heart.

📖 Bible Story (Daniel 6)

When the Medo-Persian Empire conquered Babylon, King Darius needed trustworthy men to help rule the kingdom. Daniel was chosen as one of the chief leaders because he had an excellent spirit. He was wise, faithful, and careful in his work.

The other leaders became jealous of Daniel. They did not want him to be honored by the king, so they began looking for a way to accuse him. They watched his work closely, hoping to find dishonesty, laziness, carelessness, or some hidden wrong.

But they could not find anything against him. Daniel was not faithful only when the king was watching. He did not do just enough to look good in front of others. He worked honestly because he knew God saw every choice.

Daniel obeyed from the heart. Whether he was handling the king's business, making decisions, or doing ordinary daily work, he wanted to be faithful to God. Even in the hidden details of his work, Daniel chose honesty instead of shortcuts. His enemies finally admitted that they could not find any fault in him unless they made a law against his worship of the Lord.

Daniel's life shows what true obedience looks like. It is not only obeying when someone is checking on us. It is doing what is right because we belong to God.

When we clean, study, practice, help, or finish a job, we can do it with a willing heart. We do not need to hide sloppy work or only try hard when someone is watching. God sees the hidden places, and faithful obedience honors Him.

☀️ True Story

In 1957, Brother Andrew drove his car toward a border crossing. He was entering a country where bringing Christian books across the border could be very dangerous.

Brother Andrew had Bibles hidden in his car. He knew the guards could search his vehicle, take the books, and stop him. But he believed God wanted those Bibles to reach the waiting believers.

As he waited in line, he watched the guards pulling cars apart. Suddenly, Andrew felt God giving him an instruction to test his trust. He needed to put the Bibles out in plain sight!

To a human mind, this idea made no sense. But Andrew chose to bravely obey God right away. He took the books out of their hiding spots and laid them openly on his seat.

Then Brother Andrew prayed. He asked God to make seeing eyes blind so the guards would not notice anything God did not want them to see.

When it was his turn, the guard looked at his papers and glanced inside the car. He did not stop to search for the Bibles. He simply waved him through.

Brother Andrew drove into the country with the Bibles safely inside his car. Later, he was able to place God's Word into the hands of believers who had been waiting and praying.

Brother Andrew's choice shows us that obedience is not always easy, safe-looking, or understood by others. But when God shows us the right thing to do, we can pray, move forward, and trust Him with the results.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the spies secretly watched Daniel work, could they find any mistakes or lazy shortcuts?
- What did Brother Andrew pray as he watched the guards searching the cars ahead of him?
- Ephesians 6 says we shouldn't work with "eyeservice." What is one chore you can do with complete excellence today, even if your parents aren't watching?

🎨 Activity:

Give each child a piece of heavy white paper and a white crayon. Have them press hard to write "God Sees" or draw a picture of a chore they do at home. Because it is white-on-white, it looks like absolutely nothing is there—just like when we work hard and no earthly boss notices! Then, give them watercolors to paint over the paper, which will magically reveal the hidden white wax message. Discuss how Jesus always clearly sees our honest obedience.

Speech/Honesty — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#166) — KJV

Proverbs 12:22 "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight."

Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"

💖 Apply the Promise!

God loves the absolute truth! When we choose to be honest, it brings Him great delight. But when we tell lies or try to trick people, we destroy trust and cause terrible pain for ourselves and others.

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 27)

Isaac was old, and his eyes had become so weak that he could not see clearly. One day, he called his older son Esau and asked him to go hunting. Isaac wanted Esau to prepare a special meal, and then he planned to give him the blessing.

Rebekah, Isaac's wife, heard what Isaac said. She wanted the blessing to go to Jacob, her younger son, instead of Esau. So Rebekah made a plan for Jacob to pretend he was his brother.

Jacob knew this was wrong. He worried that his father might touch him and discover the lie. But instead of refusing to deceive his father, Jacob followed the plan.

Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and covered his hands and neck with goat skins so he would feel hairy like Esau. Then Jacob carried the food to his blind father.

Isaac asked, "Who are you, my son?" Jacob answered, "I am Esau." That one lie was not enough. Isaac became unsure and asked more questions, and Jacob had to keep lying to cover the first lie.

Isaac finally believed him. Then he gave Jacob the blessing. But the blessing was gained through dishonesty, and the results brought sorrow.

Esau became angry, Rebekah and Jacob were separated, and Jacob had to leave home. What looked like a quick way to get something good brought years of pain instead. Jacob's story shows that dishonesty does not stay small. One lie often leads to another, and then another. Truthfulness means speaking honestly, even when we are afraid, and trusting God enough to do what is right.

☀️ True Story

In January 2000, hundreds of college students lived in a large dorm building at a school in New Jersey. During that school year, some pranksters made a very foolish choice.

They secretly pulled the fire alarm eighteen different times when there was no emergency. Pulling a fire alarm is exactly like shouting out a loud, dangerous lie.

It tells everyone there is danger when there is not. Because the pranksters lied with the alarm so many times, the students stopped believing the serious warnings.

When the loud bells would ring in the middle of the night, the students always assumed it was just another trick. They simply stayed in their warm beds.

But one morning, a real fire suddenly started in a downstairs lounge. The loud alarms immediately began to ring through the long hallways to clearly warn the sleeping students.

This time, the danger was real. Smoke and fire spread quickly, and many students were hurt. Three students died.

The false alarms did not cause the fire, but they had helped weaken trust in the warning. That is one reason dishonesty is so dangerous. When people hear lies again and again, they may stop believing even when the truth is being told.

This story helps us see why God wants our words to be honest. Lies may seem like a joke, a prank, or a quick way out of trouble, but they can damage trust. Truthful words help people know they can listen to us, believe us, and trust what we say.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible lie did Jacob tell when Isaac asked, "Who are you?"
- Why didn't the college students leave their beds when the real fire alarm finally went off?
- Colossians 3 says, "Lie not one to another." Why is it so hard to trust someone after they have lied to you?

🎬 Activity:

Set up a small obstacle course using pillows or chairs. Blindfold one child and have a parent or sibling guide them through it using only their voice. Tell the guide to deliberately give one "lie" (e.g., "Take two big steps forward!" when there is a pillow right in front of them). When the blindfolded child bumps into the pillow, stop the game. Discuss how a single lie immediately makes you afraid to trust the guide's voice anymore!

Speech/Honesty — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#167) — NKJV

Ecclesiastes 12:1 "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them!'" **1 Timothy 4:12** "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When you choose to speak the truth and live honestly while you are still young, God will use your words to be a shining, beautiful example to the entire world.

📖 Bible Story (Joshua 9)

Joshua was leading the people of Israel when a group of strangers came into the camp. They wore dusty, torn clothes and shoes with holes. They showed Joshua bags of dry, crumbly bread.

The men told a big lie. They said they had traveled from a country very far away. They asked Joshua to make a special promise to be their friends and never hurt them.

Joshua did not stop to ask God what to do. He looked at their worn-out shoes and believed their story. He gave them his word. He made a strict, serious promise to keep them safe.

Three days later, Joshua found out the truth! The men were from a town called Gibeon, which was right next door. They had completely tricked him.

The people of Israel were very angry. They wanted to break the promise. They told Joshua to go back on his word and punish the men for lying.

But Joshua knew that a promise made before God was not something to break. Even though the Gibeonites had lied, Joshua and the leaders had given their word. He stood in front of the angry crowd and said no. He explained that because they had made a promise before God, they could not break it.

Joshua kept the promise. He did not go back on his word just because it became difficult.

His choice teaches us that honest words matter. When we make a promise, God wants us to mean what we say and keep our word.

☀️ True Story

In 2021, an eighteen-year-old boy named Emmanuel Tuloe lived in Liberia. His family was very poor. To help them survive, he had dropped out of school to work long hours in the hot sun just to make a few dollars a day.

One afternoon, while driving his motorcycle taxi down the highway, Emmanuel saw a plastic bag wrapped in paper lying in the dirt. He stopped, picked it up, and looked inside. He was shocked! The bag was stuffed with fifty thousand dollars in crisp cash! For a poor teenager, this was an unimaginable fortune. It was enough money to completely change his life.

When his friends saw the money, they begged him to keep his mouth shut. They told him to just lie, keep the secret, and pretend he had never seen it. But Emmanuel had an honest heart. Later that day, he heard a desperate woman crying on the radio, begging for someone to truthfully return the money she had lost.

Emmanuel ignored his friends' pressure to lie. He chose to be an example in his word! He went to the police, admitted he had the bag, and returned every single penny to the grateful owner.

When the President of Liberia heard about this young man's honest speech, he invited Emmanuel to the presidential mansion, gave him a large financial reward, and provided a full scholarship so he could finally go to college! Doing right may not always be easy, and other people may not understand. But when we speak truthfully, keep our word, and return what does not belong to us, we show that a good name is worth more than riches.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the men from Gibeon do to trick Joshua into making a promise?
- What did Emmanuel Tuloe find lying in the dirt while driving his motorcycle taxi?
- What did Emmanuel's friends tell him to do, and what honest choice did he make instead?

🎬 Activity:

Give children blocks and two cards labeled "Truth" and "Trick." Read situations aloud and have them raise the correct card. If the action is honest, add a block to the tower. If it is a trick, remove one! Use examples like hiding a mess under the bed, asking adults to return found money, breaking hard promises, or bravely telling the truth. Discuss how Joshua kept his word and Emmanuel returned the cash. Show honesty builds trust, but dishonesty breaks it down.

Speech/Honesty — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#168) — KJV

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." **Psalm 34:13** "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." **James 1:26** "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Ask God to help you control your words. Choose to speak truth and kindness, not harm. When you let Him guide your speech, your words will bless others and show a heart that truly follows Him.

📖 Bible Story (1 Kings 12)

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became the new king of Israel. The people came to him with a serious request. Under Solomon, they had carried heavy taxes and hard work. They asked Rehoboam to lighten their burden, and they promised to serve him faithfully.

Rehoboam first asked the older counselors what he should say. They gave him wise advice. They told him that if he spoke kindly to the people and served them, the people would gladly serve him in return.

But Rehoboam rejected their counsel. Instead, he listened to young men who encouraged him to speak proudly and harshly. They made cruel words sound strong and impressive, but their advice was foolish.

When the people came back for his answer, Rehoboam did not use gentle words. He threatened to make their burden even heavier than before. His speech was proud, sharp, and unkind. Instead of using his words to heal the trouble, he used them to make the people feel smaller and more afraid.

Those harsh words brought terrible results. Ten of the twelve tribes rebelled, and the kingdom was divided. Rehoboam lost most of the nation in a single day.

Rehoboam's choice shows how powerful our words can be. A gentle answer can bring peace, but proud and angry speech can break trust, hurt relationships, and cause lasting trouble. God wants our words to be truthful, kind, and helpful—not careless, harsh, or proud.

☀️ True Story

In 1983, a thirteen-year-old boy named Andrew Flosdorf competed in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. During the competition, he was given the word echolalia.

Millions of people were watching the competition on television. The ultimate winner would receive an incredible trophy and a cash prize. During a final round, the judges gave Andrew a difficult word.

He had to spell the word echolalia. Andrew stepped up to the microphone and carefully spelled it out loud. The chief judge smiled and told him he had spelled it perfectly!

Andrew was totally thrilled. He proudly walked back to his seat to advance to the next round. But a few minutes later, Andrew started thinking about his letters.

He realized with a sinking feeling that he had substituted the wrong letter. He had misspelled the word, but the judges simply had not heard him correctly!

It would have been very easy to keep his mouth shut and try to win the national championship. Instead, Andrew walked right up to the strict judges and told the absolute truth.

He confessed his mistake, knowing it would eliminate him. When people asked why he had spoken up, Andrew said he did not want to feel like "slime." He knew that winning would not feel right if it was built on a lie. Andrew's choice gives us a clear picture of honest speech. Truthfulness means speaking up when silence would deceive someone. A clean conscience are worth more than winning a prize.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What happened to Rehoboam's kingdom because he refused to bridle his tongue?
- What did thirteen-year-old Andrew Flosdorf bravely do when he realized he had misspelled his word?
- Ephesians 4 says to only use speech that is "edifying" (building people up). Give an example of a corrupt sentence that tears someone down, and an edifying sentence that builds someone up!

🎨 Activity:

Have children stand in a circle. Holding the end of a yarn ball, tell a silly lie, like, "I own a dinosaur!" Toss the yarn across the circle while keeping your piece. Have that child tell a lie and toss it. Repeat until a messy web forms. Ask someone to walk through it. It is impossible! Explain that both lies and cruel words create messy traps. Choose edifying, honest words!

Speech/Honesty — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#169) — KJV

Ephesians 5:2–4 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Instead of using our mouths to tell dirty jokes, use foul language, or speak foolishly, we should use our speech to be thankful and show people the beautiful love of Jesus.

📖 Bible Story (Matthew 5)

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He sat down on a hillside and taught the people. During this sermon, Jesus talked about our speech and honesty.

In those days, the religious leaders had invented a system of lying. They believed that if you made a promise and swore by the name of God, you had to keep it.

But if you only swore by the earth or your head, it was fine to break your promise and lie! It was a terrible system of foolish talking and deception.

Jesus removed all those excuses. He taught that God hears every word we speak. Even if no one else knows what we really mean, God understands the heart behind our words. We cannot hide a dishonest heart behind clever wording, technical promises, or half-truths.

Jesus told the people not to use big oaths to make their words sound more believable. Instead, He said their "yes" should mean yes, and their "no" should mean no.

In other words, God wants our everyday speech to be simple, clear, and honest. A truthful person should not need extra promises, dramatic words, or tricky explanations to be believed. Our words should be so trustworthy that people know we mean exactly what we say.

Honesty begins in the heart. We should not twist our words to get what we want or make excuses for lying. When we belong to Jesus, our speech should be clean, truthful, and trustworthy.

☀️ True Story

During the American Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was a famous general. Because military camps were filled with rough soldiers, it was common to hear men telling dirty jokes.

But General Grant was different. Even though he commanded thousands of men, he hated foolish talking. He refused to use bad words and expected the men to keep their speech pure.

One evening, General Grant was sitting around a campfire with several of his officers. A soldier rode up to the camp, hopped off his horse, and joined the circle.

The man had a habit of telling inappropriate jokes. He looked around the campfire to see who was listening. Smiling a sneaky smile, he loudly announced a foolish thought.

He said that since there were no ladies present, he could tell his dirty joke. General Grant instantly sat up straight and stared the man right in the eyes.

In a firm voice, Grant interrupted him and said, "No, but there are gentlemen present." The man's face turned red. He was embarrassed and quickly closed his mouth.

Grant's words were short, but they were firm. He did not laugh along just to fit in, and he did not stay silent when he knew the speech was wrong. His example shows that clean speech sometimes requires courage. We may not be able to control what everyone else says, but we can choose what we listen to, what we laugh at, and what we allow around us. God wants our words to be pure, respectful, and helpful, not foolish, dirty, or careless.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus say we shouldn't need to swear a giant oath to prove we are telling the truth?
- What did General Grant firmly say when the soldier tried to tell a dirty joke around the campfire?
- Jesus said our communication should simply be "Yea, yea" or what?

🎨 Activity:

Give the children a cup of clean water and a spoonful of dirt (representing "foolish talking"). Let them stir the dirt in, making it gross. Then, place a coffee filter over an empty cup and pour the dirty water through it. Discuss how Ephesians 5 commands us to put a strict "filter" on our mouths and ears! We must carefully catch and stop filthy words and jokes before they enter our minds or come out of our lips!

Speech/Honesty — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#170) — KJV

Matthew 12:34–37 "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Our words are like a mirror showing exactly what is inside our hearts! We must be very careful to fill our hearts with God's goodness so that only kind, loving words come out of our mouths.

📖 Bible Story (2 Kings 2)

Elisha had just been chosen to carry on Elijah's work as a prophet of God. Elijah had been taken to heaven, and now Elisha was traveling toward Bethel, a city where many people had turned away from the Lord.

As Elisha walked along the road, a large group of youths came out of the city and began to mock him. They shouted, "Go up, you bald head!" They were making fun of his appearance, but their words meant more than that. They were also showing disrespect for God's prophet.

Their speech was cruel, proud, and rebellious. They were not using words to encourage, help, or speak truth. They were using their mouths to shame and mock someone God had called. What may have sounded like a joke to them was really a serious sin in God's sight.

Elisha turned and spoke a solemn judgment in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and attacked forty-two of the youths. God was showing that mocking, rebellious words are not harmless just because many people are saying them together.

This is a serious story, and it shows that God cares about our words. Mocking speech is not harmless just because people laugh. Our words show what is happening in our hearts.

Elisha's story teaches us to guard our tongues. We should not use our words to make fun of someone's body, age, weakness, or appearance. God wants our speech to be respectful, truthful, and kind—not mocking, cruel, or careless.

🌟 True Story

In 1842, before Abraham Lincoln became president, he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Illinois. A politician named James Shields had made an unpopular decision about money and taxes, and many people were upset with him.

Lincoln decided to write a mocking newspaper letter about Shields. Instead of signing his own name, he wrote under the false name "Rebecca." The letter made fun of Shields so sharply that people in town laughed and talked about it.

But James Shields did not laugh. He felt deeply insulted. When he found out Lincoln had written the letter, he demanded an apology. The trouble grew so serious that Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel.

In those days, a duel was a dangerous fight between two men. Lincoln did not want to be shot, so he chose large swords as the weapons. Because Lincoln was very tall, the swords would give him an advantage over Shields.

The men prepared to meet, and the joke suddenly became a matter of life and death. What had started as mocking words in a newspaper almost turned into bloodshed.

Thankfully, friends stepped in and helped stop the duel before anyone was hurt. Lincoln did not forget the lesson. Sharp words may feel clever for a moment, but they can wound deeply and lead to serious trouble.

Lincoln's experience teaches us to be careful with teasing, sarcasm, and mocking. God does not want our words to embarrass or injure others. He wants us to use speech that is truthful, thoughtful, and kind.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrifying thing happened to the gang from Bethel to prove that God takes our "idle words" very seriously?
- What did James Shields challenge Abraham Lincoln to do after reading the mocking letter?
- Matthew 12 says that we will give an account for our idle words. How can a "funny joke" or teasing end up causing real harm to others?

🎨 Activity:

Bring two sponges and two bowls to the table. Fill one bowl with clean water and the other with muddy water. Let one sponge soak in the clean bowl, and the other in the mud. Squeeze the clean sponge into an empty cup. Clean water comes out! Squeeze the muddy sponge. Dirty water comes out! Explain that our hearts are exactly like sponges. Whatever we soak our hearts in will squeeze out of our mouths!

Gossip — Day 1



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#171) — KJV

Proverbs 17:9 "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."

Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no man..." **1 Peter 2:17** "Honour all men..." **Proverbs 18:8** "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

Apply the Promise!

*Repeating gossip and spreading rumors causes deep, terrible pain and destroys friendships.
He wants us to be honest, gentle, and loving with our words.*

Bible Story (Nehemiah 6)

God's people had returned to Jerusalem after many years away from their homeland. But the city was still weak and broken. The walls had been torn down, and the people needed help, protection, and courage.

Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls of the city. God had given him a serious work to do, but not everyone was happy about it. Men named Sanballat and Tobiah mocked him, threatened him, and tried many ways to stop the work.

When the wall was almost finished, Sanballat tried a different plan. He sent Nehemiah an open letter. Because the letter was open, other people could read it too.

The letter was filled with false rumors. Sanballat claimed that people were saying Nehemiah wanted to rebel against the king and make himself ruler in Jerusalem. None of this was true. Sanballat hoped the rumors would frighten Nehemiah so he would stop building and defend himself.

But Nehemiah did not let the false report control him. He answered simply and firmly, "No such things as you say are being done. You are making them up in your own heart."

Then Nehemiah prayed, "Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands." He did not chase every rumor or argue with every enemy. He kept doing the work God had given him. Nehemiah's choice teaches us how to handle gossip. False words can frighten, distract, and hurt people, but we do not have to spread them or live under them. We can answer truthfully, pray for strength, and keep doing what is right.

True Story

During the American Revolutionary War, General George Washington was working incredibly hard. He was trying to lead his tired army and build a brand-new, free country.

His political enemies knew they could not easily beat him in a fair battle. So, they decided to use malicious rumors! The enemy printed a small pamphlet of fake letters and loudly told everyone that George Washington had personally written the secret messages.

The fake letters claimed Washington was secretly a traitor. The vicious rumors said he actually hated America and deeply wanted the British enemy to win!

Washington knew the letters were made up. He did not panic, and he did not quit his important job to fiercely argue with the liars. He chose to completely ignore the gossip.

Washington kept bravely leading his men, completely ignored the hurtful lies, and eventually won the entire war!

Years later, the false letters were still being brought up against him. Washington had to publicly deny them and explain that they were forgeries. The gossip had been invented, but it continued to cause trouble long after it began.

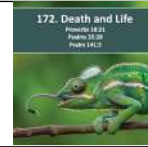
This shows why rumors are so harmful. A false story can travel far, hurt someone's reputation, and keep causing damage for years. God wants us to be careful with what we repeat. Before we share something about another person, we should ask: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?

Discussion Questions:

- What weapon did Sanballat use when he realized he couldn't stop Nehemiah with physical force?
- What did George Washington do when his enemies printed fake letters to spread terrible rumors about him?
- Proverbs 17 says that repeating a matter separates friends. What should you do if someone tries to tell you a juicy rumor or piece of gossip about a classmate?

Activity:

Have a child hold a paper plate and deliberately spill a pile of craft glitter in the center. Challenge them to use their fingers to pick up every single speck and put it perfectly back into the container without leaving any trace behind. It is completely impossible! Explain that gossip is exactly like glitter. Once a rumor spreads, it sticks to everything and can never be fully cleaned up!



Today's Promise (#172) — KJV

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."

Psalms 35:28 "And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long."

Psalms 141:3 "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The things we say can either bring beautiful life, truth, and peace, or they can cause fear, deception, and destruction. God promises to help us put a strict "guard" on our lips so we only speak life!

📖 Bible Story (2 Samuel 15)

King David was the ruler of Israel, but his son Absalom secretly wanted the throne. Absalom knew he could not simply walk into the palace and take the kingdom. So he used a quieter weapon: harmful words.

Every morning, Absalom stood near the city gate where people came to ask the king for help. When someone arrived with a problem, Absalom would speak kindly at first. He acted as if he cared deeply about them.

Then he quietly planted doubt about King David. He told the people that their cause was good, but no one from the king was there to hear them properly. Then he would say that if only he were judge, he would make sure everyone received justice.

Absalom bowed, kissed people, and made them feel important. But his words were not honest love. He was using kindness on the outside to spread disloyalty underneath.

Little by little, Absalom turned many hearts away from David. His whispering and flattery divided the kingdom and brought great sorrow to his family and the nation.

Absalom's story shows how dangerous gossip can be. Gossip does not always sound cruel at first. Sometimes it sounds like concern, sympathy, or helpful information. But when our words make people distrust others, take sides, or think evil without knowing the truth, they can do deep harm.

God wants our speech to heal, not divide. Before we repeat something about another person, we should ask whether our words are true, kind, necessary, and helpful.

☀️ True Story

On October 30, 1938, actor Orson Welles helped direct a radio play called *The War of the Worlds*. It was a science fiction story about creatures from Mars landing on earth.

Instead of telling the story in a normal way, the actors performed part of it like breaking news. They used serious voices, sound effects, and pretend reporters to make the story feel real. Some listeners became confused, especially if they turned on the radio after the introduction and did not hear that it was only a play. They heard frightening reports about an invasion and wondered if something terrible was really happening.

Many people called radio stations, newspapers, or police departments to ask whether the broadcast was true. Later, newspapers made the panic sound even larger than it probably was, but the broadcast still showed how quickly frightening reports can spread.

Orson Welles's broadcast was not gossip in the usual sense, but it teaches an important lesson about careless or confusing words. When people hear a report and repeat it without knowing the truth, fear can grow quickly. One unclear story can turn into many frightened conversations when people pass it along too quickly.

This is why God wants us to be careful with our words. Before we pass along something frightening, shocking, or harmful, we should stop and ask, "Do I know this is true?" Truthful speech brings peace and safety, but careless reports can create fear and confusion.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible rumors did Absalom spread about King David when people came asking for help?
- What were Orson Welles and his actors pretending was happening during their radio broadcast?
- Read Psalm 141:3 again. What does it mean to ask God to "set a watch" and keep the "door" of your lips?

🎭 Activity:

Set up a long, winding line of dominoes on a hard floor. Tell the children that the very first domino represents one small lie, false report, or scary rumor. Knock it over and watch the entire line fall! Discuss how Absalom's gossip and the fake radio broadcast quickly spread a chain reaction of chaos and destruction. We must diligently guard our mouths!

Gossip — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#173) — KJV

Matthew 18:15–16 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The best way to solve a problem and stop gossip is to talk directly to the person who hurt you. If you bravely go to them in private instead of complaining to everyone else, you can save the friendship and honor God!

📖 Bible Story (2 Samuel 12)

David was a man who loved God, but one day he made terrible choices. He sinned and tried to hide what he had done.

Since David was king, many people in the palace may have known something was wrong. It would have been easy for people to whisper, point fingers, and spread shameful stories about him.

But God did not use gossip to solve the problem. He sent the prophet Nathan to speak to David directly.

Nathan did not go into the streets and tell everyone about David's sin. He did not gather other people together to complain about the king. He went straight to David and spoke to him face-to-face.

Nathan told David a story about a rich man who stole a poor man's little lamb. When David became angry at the rich man in the story, Nathan said, "Thou art the man."

Nathan's words were brave and honest. He did not flatter David, but he also did not spread the matter around. He brought the truth directly to the person who needed to hear it.

David listened, confessed his sin, and repented before God.

Nathan's example teaches us that love does not gossip about someone's wrong. Love goes to the person privately, speaks truthfully, and seeks restoration. When we have a problem with someone, God wants us to talk to them in the right spirit instead of talking about them to others.

☀️ True Story

In 1993, the country of South Africa was going through a difficult time. A leader named Nelson Mandela was working hard to bring peace to his nation. But a military leader named General Constand Viljoen disagreed with him.

The General had a large army of men. Many people were worried he might start a war. People everywhere told Mandela to go on television and publicly speak out against the General. They wanted Mandela to loudly argue with him in front of the whole world.

But Mandela refused to spread angry words or argue in public. Instead of complaining to the news reporters, he made a surprising choice. Mandela secretly invited the General to his own house for a private meeting.

When General Viljoen arrived, Mandela warmly welcomed him inside. He poured the General a cup of tea, and the two men sat down to talk. They spoke quietly and respectfully, in person, without anyone else around to listen or gossip.

During their private conversation, they realized they could understand each other. That quiet meeting helped soften the situation and opened the way for peace. Instead of a public fight, there was a respectful conversation.

Mandela's choice gives us a practical lesson about gossip and conflict. When there is a problem, it is usually better to speak directly and respectfully to the person involved. Public arguments and angry talk can make trouble grow, but private, honest conversation can help bring understanding and peace.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What happened to King David's heart because Nathan confronted him face-to-face?
- What did Nelson Mandela do instead of arguing with the General on television?
- If a friend hurts your feelings today, what is the best way to handle it without using gossip?

🎬 Activity:

Have everyone sit together in a circle. Whisper a silly complaint into the first person's ear, like, "The king's purple sheep jumped over the wall." Have them whisper it down the line. The last person must announce the final phrase out loud. It will be completely wrong and distorted! Discuss how complaining to other people instead of the source always twists the truth. To solve problems, speak directly to them!



Today's Promise (#174) — KJV

James 3:2, 7–10 "...If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body... For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

❤️ Apply the Promise!

God warns us that our words can spread like a dangerous fire, but if we ask for His help, He will teach us to completely control our tongues.

📖 Bible Story (Numbers 12)

Moses was the humble leader of Israel, but even he had to deal with the painful sting of gossip. One day, Moses's own brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, grew jealous of his special relationship with God.

Instead of talking to Moses directly, they started whispering behind his back. They criticized his wife and said, "Has the Lord spoken only by Moses? Has He not spoken also by us?"

Miriam and Aaron probably thought their murmuring session was a private secret. They thought a few whispered complaints would not hurt anyone. But the Bible gives a serious warning right in the middle of the story: "...and the Lord heard it."

God takes the sin of gossip very seriously. He called all three of them out to the tabernacle. The presence of God came down in a cloud, and He firmly corrected Aaron and Miriam for speaking against His servant.

When the cloud lifted, the sad punishment for their tongues was revealed. Miriam was covered in a white skin disease called leprosy. She was forced to leave the camp for seven days. As she sat outside, lonely and suffering, she realized how deeply her careless words had wounded her family.

Moses showed beautiful grace by crying out and begging God to heal the sister who had just betrayed him. Miriam and Aaron's words warn us to be careful how we speak about others. Instead of whispering complaints behind someone's back, we can pray, speak kindly, and go to the right person in the right spirit.

☀️ True Story

In October of the year 1871, a sad disaster struck the city of Chicago. A large fire broke out and quickly swept through the wooden buildings. The Great Chicago Fire sadly burned for three days, destroying thousands of homes and leaving many people without a place to live.

The citizens desperately wanted someone to blame. Almost immediately, an ugly, untrue rumor began to spread through the city. People started whispering that the fire was started by a poor Irish immigrant named Catherine O'Leary.

The rumor claimed that Mrs. O'Leary was carelessly milking her cow in the barn late at night, and the clumsy cow kicked over a lantern. The rumor spread faster than the fire itself.

Newspapers printed the false story, and the whole country believed it. Mrs. O'Leary was bullied and treated as a villain for the rest of her life. She died brokenhearted, hiding inside her house because she was so ashamed.

But the story was a complete lie! Mrs. O'Leary and her cow had nothing to do with starting the fire. They were fast asleep in bed when it began.

Years later, in 1893, a newspaper reporter named Michael Ahern finally confessed the truth. He admitted that he had made up the story about the cow just to sell more newspapers! Ahern's tiny, made-up lie became a very hurtful and uncontrollable rumor that ruined an innocent woman's life. Mrs. O'Leary's story shows how cruel gossip can be. A false story can travel far, hurt an innocent person, and keep doing damage long after it begins.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What was Miriam's terrifying punishment for using her tongue to speak against Moses?
- What famous, false rumor was spread about Catherine O'Leary and the Great Chicago Fire?
- James says the tongue is full of "deadly poison." How did a reporter's "tiny" lie act like a deadly poison to Mrs. O'Leary's life?

🎨 Activity:

Fill a clear glass with clean water. Tell the children that the clear water represents a person's good reputation. Take a bottle of dark food coloring (representing one tiny, whispered rumor) and drop exactly one drop into the glass. Watch how quickly the dark color spreads and completely infects the entire glass! Hand the child a spoon and challenge them to scoop the food coloring back out. Discuss how it is impossible to remove a rumor once it spreads!

Gossip — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#175) — KJV

James 4:11 "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God warns us not to speak evil or spread rumors about each other, but to always protect the reputations of others with our words.

📖 Bible Story (Esther 3-7)

In the Persian Empire, King Ahasuerus promoted a proud man named Haman to be his very highest official. Haman demanded that everyone bow down to him. But a faithful Jewish man named Mordecai refused to bow to anyone except God.

Haman grew very angry. Instead of just speaking with Mordecai, Haman decided to hurt all of the Jewish people. He knew he needed the king's permission, so he used a sneaky weapon: slander.

Haman went to King Ahasuerus and began speaking evil. He secretly whispered lies and cleverly twisted the truth. He said, "There is a certain people scattered in your kingdom. Their laws are different, and they do not keep the king's laws. It is not good to let them live."

Notice what Haman did not say. He never mentioned that these people were peaceful. He never told the king that Mordecai had actually saved the king's life! He only shared twisted words to make them sound like enemies.

Because the king listened to this unfair gossip, he quickly signed a bad law to hurt the Jewish people. Thankfully, God used Queen Esther to bravely expose Haman's lies and save her people.

Haman's story shows how dangerous slander can be. When we twist facts, leave out important truth, or speak in a way that makes someone look worse than they are, we can cause deep harm. God wants our words to protect people's reputations, not secretly tear them down.

☀️ True Story

In August of 2012, at Osseo High School in Minnesota, a small group of students used an anonymous social media account to spread mean rumors. Hiding safely behind their computer screens, they posted hurtful lies about their own classmates. They made fun of people and actively tried to ruin reputations. The gossip was causing a lot of sadness.

Kevin Curwick was a high school senior and the captain of the school's football team. He was very tired of seeing his classmates get hurt by cyberbullying. Kevin knew that speaking evil of others was wrong and was slowly destroying the school's spirit.

Kevin decided to answer hurtful words in a different way. Instead of arguing online or repeating the gossip, he created a Twitter account called Osseo Nice Things. At first, he kept his identity secret.

Every time the bullies posted a nasty rumor about a student, Kevin would use his new page to post a beautiful, true compliment about that exact same person! He highlighted their hard work, praised their kindness, and celebrated their unique talents.

Something amazing happened. The students loved reading the uplifting, kind words so much that they stopped paying attention to the gossip page! Kevin's positive account quickly gained many followers, and the bullies were ignored. Kevin's choice gives us a better way to handle gossip. We do not have to repeat cruel stories, laugh at unkind posts, or help spread rumors. We can choose words that are true, kind, and helpful.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible lie did Haman tell the king about God's people?
- How were the bullies in Minnesota spreading slander about their classmates?
- What did Kevin Curwick do every time the bullies posted a mean rumor?

📄 Activity:

Cut out a paper heart and have your child crumple it tightly to represent hearing mean gossip. Now, ask them to flatten the heart so it looks perfectly new again. They can't! Even when flattened, the deep wrinkle scars remain. Explain that apologizing is good, but slander leaves lasting hurts. We must protect our friends by choosing never to speak evil in the first place!

Hospitality/Service

Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#176) — KJV

Proverbs 3:27–28; 11:25 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee... The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When we generously use what we have to help others right now instead of making them wait, He will refresh our own hearts with joy and blessing!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 16)

Paul traveled to the city of Philippi to share the good news about Jesus. On the Sabbath day, he went down to a quiet place by the river where a group of women had gathered to pray.

One of the women listening was named Lydia. She was a businesswoman who sold purple cloth, which was very valuable in those days. As Paul spoke, the Lord opened Lydia's heart, and she believed the truth about Jesus.

Lydia and her household were baptized. But Lydia did not keep her new faith hidden inside. Right away, she looked for a way to serve.

She saw that Paul and his missionary friends needed a safe place to stay. Lydia had a home, and it was in the power of her hand to help them. She did not wait for someone else to meet the need when God had already given her a way to help.

She did not say, "Go, and come again tomorrow." She urged them, saying, "If you believe I am faithful to the Lord, come stay at my house." She opened her door with a willing heart.

Later, after Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison, they were finally released. When they came out, they went back to Lydia's house, where the believers were gathered.

Lydia's home became a place of comfort, prayer, and encouragement. Her story shows that hospitality means noticing a need and helping while we have the chance. When God gives us a home, food, time, money, or strength, we can use what is in our hand to bless others.

☀️ True Story

In 2019, a mother named Lori had carefully saved up seven hundred dollars. It was a lot of money! But one morning, she woke up and felt God was gently asking her to give all of her saved money away to help other people.

Lori didn't wait around or make excuses. She drove straight to Walmart and used their service to digitally send the cash to several different individuals who really needed it. Her pockets were completely empty, but her heart felt full of joy because she had obeyed God.

Almost the very second she finished sending the money, a stranger walked right up to her in the store. The lady handed Lori a Walmart gift card worth over a hundred dollars! Lori gave the lady a huge hug and asked why she was giving her such a wonderful gift. The lady smiled and simply said, "I just felt impressed to do it!"

While Lori was driving home, her phone suddenly dinged with a message that someone had just sent her money. When she finally pulled into her driveway and opened her mailbox, there was a surprise check waiting inside!

When Lori went inside and added up the Walmart gift card, the money on her phone, and the check, she was absolutely amazed. It added up to just over seven hundred dollars! God used three different people to immediately give back every single penny she had given away. Lori learned firsthand that when you open your hand to help others, God will always make sure you are perfectly cared for. When God asks us to share what we have, we can trust Him to see our needs and care for us in the way He knows is best.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When Lydia saw that Paul and his friends needed a place to stay, what did she immediately beg them to do?
- What amazing surprise happened right after Lori quickly obeyed God and gave all her saved money away?
- Proverbs says we should not tell someone to come back tomorrow if we can help them today. Who is someone you can generously help today?

🎨 Activity:

Have each child trace and cut out an outline of their hand on paper. On each finger, have them write or draw something God has given them to bless others, like time, food, toys, or a smile. Remind them that the Bible verse says to help when it is in the power of their hand to do it! Then ask, "What is one thing in your hand you can use to help someone this week?"

Hospitality/Service Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#177) — KJV

Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

Deuteronomy 15:11 "...Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."

Luke 3:11 "... He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that when we happily share our food, clothes, and money with those who have nothing, we are actually lending to the Lord, and He will always bless us for it!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 2 & 4)

The city of Jerusalem was filled with visitors who had traveled from many places for a special feast. While they were there, Peter preached the good news about Jesus, and thousands of people believed.

Suddenly, these new believers were part of God's family. But many of them were far from home. Some did not have enough food, money, or a safe place to stay while they learned more about Jesus.

The believers in Jerusalem saw the need right in front of them. They did not say, "Come back tomorrow," or "Someone else should help." They looked at what God had given them and opened their hands.

Some sold land, houses, or other valuable things. They brought the money to the apostles, and it was shared with those who had need. No one was left to struggle alone while others had plenty.

Their giving was not forced. They shared because the love of Jesus had changed their hearts. The more they received from God, the more willing they became to care for one another. They understood that their homes, food, money, and belongings were gifts from God that could be used to bless others.

The early church gives us a beautiful picture of practical love. When we see someone in need and have the power to help, God does not want us to hold back with a closed hand. He wants us to give freely, share gladly, and care for others as members of His family.

☀️ True Story

In 2018, a young boy in Alabama named Austin Perine was watching a nature show about mother animals protecting their babies. He asked his dad if humans ever lost their homes like the animals did. His dad sadly explained that yes, some humans are homeless, and they do not have a bed to sleep in or food to eat.

Austin had a very broken heart. He knew what it felt like to have a warm house and a full tummy, and he could not imagine being hungry on the street. He asked his dad if he could use his own allowance money to buy food for the people who had nothing.

Austin's dad took him to a restaurant to buy hot chicken sandwiches. Then, they walked down the city sidewalks. Every time Austin saw a homeless person, he ran up to them, smiled, and handed them a warm meal. As he handed over the food, he shouted his favorite catchphrase: "Don't forget to show love!" His small hands could not solve every problem, but they could place food into one hungry person's hands at a time.

The people were amazed. Many cried tears of joy because a young boy treated them with such dignity and kindness. Austin became famous in his city, and people started calling him "President Austin."

Austin's story shows that generosity is not only for grown-ups or people with lots of money. He used what was in his hand—his allowance, his time, and his willing heart. When God shows us someone who needs help, we can choose to share what we have instead of waiting for someone else to do it.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What amazing thing did the early church do so that no one in their new family would go hungry?
- What did four-year-old Austin learn while watching a nature show with his dad?
- Luke 3:11 says if we have two coats, we should give to someone who has none. What is something you have that you could share with someone in need?

🎨 Activity:

Set a table with several snacks, but give your child only one plate. Tell them they have to "feed" their stuffed animals, siblings, or you. As they share their snacks from their plate, explain that the early church did the exact same thing! When we give away what we have, we show others that God is our provider and that we trust Him to keep us full, too.

Hospitality/Service Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#178) — KJV

Matthew 25:34–36, 40 "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When you invite a lonely person to sit with you, or share your food with a stranger, Jesus says it is exactly the same as doing it for Him! True hospitality is loving Jesus by loving others.

📖 Bible Story (Acts 18)

Priscilla and her husband Aquila were busy tentmakers who had to move away from their home to a new city called Corinth. Moving is very hard, but Priscilla and Aquila loved God, and they loved hospitality! They believed their house did not just belong to them; it belonged to God.

One day, a tired traveling preacher named Paul came to their city. He did not have anywhere to sleep, and he needed to make money to buy food. Priscilla and Aquila did not ignore him. Instead, they warmly opened their front door! They invited Paul to live in their house, eat at their table, and work alongside them making tents.

Because they were so kind to him, Paul stayed with them for a year and a half, preaching the gospel! Later, Priscilla and Aquila moved again. This time, they met a brilliant but confused young preacher named Apollos. Once again, they opened their home, invited him over for dinner, and gently taught him the truth about Jesus.

They were so generous that they even let the early Christians use their living room as a church! Priscilla and Aquila were not famous kings or wealthy politicians. They were just ordinary people who used their home, their food, and their extra beds to serve God.

Priscilla and Aquila show us that hospitality is more than having a perfect house or fancy food. It means using what God has given us—our home, table, time, work, and friendship—to strengthen others. When we welcome people with love, our homes can become places where God's work is helped and His people are encouraged.

☀️ True Story

In the fourth century, a young soldier named Martin of Tours was serving in the army. One freezing winter day, Martin was riding his horse toward the city gates. The icy wind was bitterly cold, and the snow was falling fast.

As he approached the gate, Martin saw a poor beggar sitting in the deep snow, shaking from the freezing cold. The man was wearing barely any clothes. Many wealthy people and other soldiers walked right past the poor man, ignoring his sad cries for help.

But Martin refused to look away. He wanted to help, but he had no extra money or warm clothes hidden in his bags. All he had was the heavy military cloak he was wearing on his own back.

Martin did not hesitate. He drew his sword, carefully cut his warm cloak right in half, and gently wrapped one piece around the freezing stranger. People laughed at Martin for wearing a ruined coat, but he did not care.

That very same night, Martin had a beautiful, wonderful dream. He saw Jesus in heaven surrounded by angels, and Jesus was wearing the exact torn cloak Martin had given away! Jesus smiled and told the angels, "Martin clothed me."

Martin's story gives us a clear picture of generous love. We may not have everything someone needs, but we can share what we do have. A coat, a meal, a room, a kind welcome, or a little time can become a gift to Jesus when it is given to someone in need.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What was Priscilla and Aquila's job?
- What did Martin do with his heavy military cloak when he saw the freezing beggar?
- Is there someone new at your church or school who needs a friend? How can you show them hospitality this week?

🎨 Activity:

Have the children work together to pack small care bags with items like snacks, water, and a kind note or drawing. Talk about who might need these and plan to give them to someone in need, a neighbor, or a local ministry. Talk about it: Jesus said when we care for others, we are serving Him. Even small gifts given with love can show God's kindness and make someone feel seen and cared for.

Hospitality/Service

Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#179) — KJV

Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When you are kind to someone you don't know, you never know who you are actually helping! God wants us to treat every single stranger as if they were an angel sent straight from heaven.

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 18)

Abraham was sitting in the shade of his tent during the hottest part of the day. It was the quiet time when everyone always rested.

Suddenly, he looked up and saw three strangers standing a little way off. Abraham quickly jumped up, ran to meet them, and bowed down politely.

He begged the tired men to stay, wash their dusty feet, and rest under his tree. Abraham and Sarah immediately rushed to prepare fine food.

They did not just give them leftovers. Sarah hurried to bake fresh bread, and Abraham ran to the herd to select a tender, young calf.

They served the men cool milk and meat. Abraham stood humbly by them under the tree, serving them exactly as if they were actual royalty.

But these men were not just ordinary travelers. Abraham had no idea, but one man was the Lord, and the others were two powerful angels!

Because of his eager hospitality, the Lord gave Abraham an incredible promise. He literally entertained angels from heaven without even knowing who they actually were.

Abraham's example teaches us that hospitality begins with a willing heart. We may not know how important a simple act of kindness will be. When we welcome others, share our food, give our time, and treat strangers with respect, we are serving God.

☀️ True Story

In the sixteenth century, King James the Fifth of Scotland loved to travel. He would often dress up in very ordinary, poor clothes to hide.

He wanted to see how his people truly lived. One evening, the disguised king was walking near a bridge when he was attacked by thieves.

A poor farm worker named John Howieson heard the loud shouting. He quickly ran out to help the dusty stranger and bravely chased the robbers away.

John had no idea he was talking to the king. He invited the tired man into his humble home, washed his wounds, and offered water.

John did not ask whether the stranger was rich, famous, or important before he helped him. He simply saw a person in need and opened his heart and home.

To thank him, the disguised man politely invited John to visit the royal castle the very next day.

When John arrived, he was shocked to discover the stranger was the king! Because of his kind hospitality, the king gave John a farm.

This story gives us a simple picture of hospitality. We should not show kindness only to people who look important, rich, or impressive. God wants us to welcome others with warmth and respect. When we serve someone who seems ordinary, poor, tired, or unknown, we may be blessing someone far more important than we realize.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What kind of delicious food did Abraham and Sarah rush to prepare for their tired guests?
- What did John Howieson do when he saw a poor, ordinary stranger being attacked near the bridge?
- If you knew a real angel was coming to your house today, how would you treat them differently than a normal guest?

🎨 Activity:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and some bright markers. Ask them to design a beautiful, colorful "Welcome" mat for a front door. As they draw, explain that true hospitality isn't about having a perfect, fancy house; it is about having a warm, welcoming heart! Hang the picture by your front door as a reminder to always be ready to show God's love to visitors and strangers!

Hospitality/Service

Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#180) — KJV

1 John 3:16–18 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

❤️ Apply the Promise!

When we truly love God, we won't just say nice words to people who are hurting; we will share what we have and show our love through real, helpful actions!

📖 Bible Story (2 Kings 4)

Elisha was a prophet who often traveled from place to place doing God's work. One day, he passed through a town called Shunem. A woman who lived there noticed him and invited him to come into her home for a meal.

After that, whenever Elisha passed through Shunem, he stopped at her house to eat. The woman began to understand that Elisha needed more than one meal. He needed a quiet place to rest during his travels.

She spoke with her husband and made a generous plan. They built a small room for Elisha on the wall of their house. Then they furnished it with a bed, a table, a stool, and a lamp. She did not wait for Elisha to ask for help; she noticed the need herself and looked for a way to meet it.

The Shunammite woman did not only say kind words to God's servant. She used what she had to meet a real need. Her home became a place where Elisha could rest, pray, and be refreshed for his work.

God saw her kindness. Later, Elisha told her that she would have a son, and God gave her the child she had longed for. Her generous care brought blessing not only to Elisha, but also back into her own home.

Her story shows that hospitality does not have to be showy or fancy. It means noticing what someone needs and helping in a real way. When we have food, a room, a chair, a bed, or time to share, love can use those simple things to bless someone else.

☀️ True Story

On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered a terrible tragedy, and all American airspace was immediately shut down. Hundreds of airplanes were ordered away.

Thirty-eight airplanes were sent to land in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland. Almost seven thousand tired and frightened passengers suddenly needed food, beds, phones, and comfort.

A woman named Beulah Cooper was one of the people who helped. She prepared food and went to serve the passengers. There she met a stranded traveler named Monica Burke, who was upset and overwhelmed.

Beulah did not only bring food and walk away. She saw Monica's need and invited her into her own home. She gave her a safe place to sleep, warm meals, and the comfort of being cared for like family.

What began as a frightening delay became the beginning of a lasting friendship. Beulah and Monica stayed connected long after the planes were allowed to leave. A few days of hospitality became a memory of kindness that neither woman forgot.

Beulah's story gives a clear picture of love in action. She saw a stranger in need and did what she could with the home, food, and time God had placed in her hands. Hospitality is not only saying, "I care." It is opening the door, setting the table, and helping someone feel safe and loved.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the Shunammite woman do the very first time she saw Elisha passing through her town?
- When thousands of passengers were stranded in Gander, what was the first thing Beulah Cooper made for them?
- Why is it sometimes easier to just say, "I hope you feel better," instead of actually doing the hard work to help someone?

🎨 Activity:

Give each child a cardboard box and some craft supplies. Challenge them to build a "little chamber" like the Shunammite woman did! Have them cut a door and create a tiny bed, table, and stool using folded paper. As they work, explain that 1 John 3:18 tells us not to just say nice things, but to do helpful things. We can use what God gives us to make others feel loved!

Getting Along Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#181) — KJV

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The absolute best way to get along with others is to always treat them exactly the way we want to be treated!

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 13)

Abraham and his nephew Lot were traveling through the land of Canaan. God had blessed both of them with large flocks and herds, but soon there was a problem. The land did not have enough grass and water for all their animals in one place.

Before long, Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen began to argue. One group wanted this pasture, and the other group wanted that well. The camp that should have been peaceful was becoming full of conflict.

Abraham was the older uncle, and he had the right to demand the best land. But he knew getting along was much more important.

He decided to treat his nephew exactly the way he would want to be treated. Abraham took Lot up to a very high hill.

He kindly said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between me and thee." Then he gave Lot the choice. If Lot went to the left, Abraham would go to the right. If Lot chose the right, Abraham would go to the left.

Lot selfishly grabbed the best land near the river, but Abraham did not get angry. He happily took the leftover land for himself. Abraham did not complain or fight. He trusted God to care for him, even if he received the less desirable place.

Abraham's choice shows us how to get along with others. Instead of grabbing the best for ourselves, we can think about how we would want to be treated. When we choose peace, fairness, and unselfishness, we are living out the Golden Rule.

🌟 True Story

In December 2012, a Kenyan runner named Abel Mutai was competing in a cross-country race in Spain. Abel was a strong runner, and near the end of the race he was in first place.

But as Abel came close to the finish, he became confused by the signs. He thought he had already crossed the finish line, so he slowed down and stopped about ten meters too early.

A Spanish runner named Ivan Fernández was right behind him in second place. Ivan saw what had happened. He could have rushed past Abel and won the race for himself.

But Ivan knew that would not be fair. Abel had been leading the race, and he had only stopped because he misunderstood where the finish line was. Ivan chose honesty over an easy victory.

Ivan began pointing and calling for Abel to keep going, but Abel did not understand Spanish. So Ivan came up behind him and gently guided him forward until Abel crossed the true finish line first.

The crowd was amazed by Ivan's sportsmanship. When reporters asked why he did not pass Abel and take the victory, Ivan explained that Abel was the rightful winner. He also asked what his mother would think if he won that way.

Ivan's choice gives us a clear picture of the Golden Rule. Getting along with others means we do not take advantage of their mistakes. We ask ourselves, "How would I want to be treated?" Then we choose the fair and loving thing, even when it costs us.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What unselfish choice did Abraham give to his nephew Lot to stop the fighting between Lot and his men?
- Why did the Kenyan runner, Abel Mutai, stop running before the race was actually over?
- Matthew 7:12 is called the Golden Rule. If you want your brother or sister to share their toys with you, how should you treat them today?

🎬 Activity:

Grab a smooth, bouncy ball and have the children stand in a circle or across from you. Roll the ball gently to them and ask them to roll it gently back. Now, throw the ball a little harder and let them return it the same way. Explain that getting along is just like rolling a ball! Whatever kind of attitude, words, or actions we push toward other people, they will usually bounce right back to us. Always choose to roll kindness!

Getting Along

Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#182) — KJV

Romans 2:1 "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." **Matthew 7:1-3** "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

💖 Apply the Promise!

If we choose to show grace and love to others instead of harsh judgment, God will help us show the same mercy He has shown to us.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 7)

One day, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to eat at his house. Simon looked religious on the outside, but his heart was proud. When Jesus came in, Simon did not show Him the usual kindness given to guests. He gave Him no water for His dusty feet and no warm welcome.

While they were eating, a woman came into the room. Many people knew she had made sinful choices. She came quietly to Jesus, weeping. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them with her hair. Then she poured sweet-smelling ointment on Him.

Simon watched and judged her in his heart. He thought that if Jesus really knew what kind of woman she was, He would not let her come near Him. Simon did not see her sorrow, her love, or her need for mercy. He only saw her past.

Jesus knew Simon's thoughts. He told a short story about two people who owed money and could not pay. One owed much more than the other, but both were forgiven. Jesus asked which one would love the most. Simon answered, "The one who was forgiven more."

Jesus helped Simon see that the woman loved much because she knew she had been forgiven much. Simon had been judging her, but he needed mercy too.

This story reminds us not to look down on others or judge their hearts. We do not know everything God is doing inside a person. When we remember how much mercy Jesus has shown us, it becomes easier to treat others with patience, kindness, and grace.

☀️ True Story

On a chilly January morning in 2007, a man in a plain cap and jeans stood near a trash can in the busy subway station.

He pulled a violin out of his case and began to play some of the most beautiful, difficult music that was ever written for audiences.

For forty-five minutes, over a thousand people rushed right past him on their way to work. Almost every single person completely ignored the playing musician.

A few tossed some spare change into his open case without even looking up, judging him to be just another ordinary street beggar playing today.

What those busy commuters did not realize was that the man was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the entire modern world.

He was playing a rare three-million-dollar violin! Because the commuters judged him based on his plain clothes, they missed a free world-class musical masterpiece entirely.

They assumed he was worthless. When we judge others by their looks, we might be completely throwing away a priceless, beautiful masterpiece created by God.

Joshua Bell's story reminds us that we can easily miss something precious when we judge too quickly. People are worth much more than their clothes, job, house, money, or outward appearance. God sees the heart, and He wants us to look at others with kindness instead of quick judgment.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- How did Simon the Pharisee treat Jesus when He arrived for dinner?
- When Joshua Bell played his three-million-dollar violin in the subway, what did the people judge him to be?
- Why is it so dangerous to judge others based on how they look, what they wear, or where they live?

🎬 Activity:

Give everyone a brown paper bag with a delicious candy hidden inside. Scribble all over the outside with a dark marker so the bags look completely messy. Ask the children if they want to throw the ugly bags in the trash! When they open them and find the prize, explain that quickly judging people by their outside appearance causes us to miss the beautiful treasure God put inside their hearts!

Getting Along Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#183) — KJV

Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

💖 Apply the Promise!

*True brotherly love means stepping back to let others shine, happily
honoring them above ourselves!*

📖 Bible Story (John 3)

John the Baptist was a faithful preacher who prepared the way for Jesus. Crowds came into the wilderness to hear him preach, and many people were baptized in the Jordan River.

For a while, John was the one everyone came to hear. Some people even wondered if he might be the promised Saviour. But John never tried to make himself seem important. He told the people that Someone far greater was coming.

Then Jesus began His public ministry, and more people started following Him. Some of John's disciples became worried. They came to John and said that many people were now going to Jesus.

John could have compared himself with Jesus. He could have felt upset that the crowds were getting smaller. He could have tried to hold tightly to his own followers. But John did not want to compete. He knew his work was to help people follow Christ.

So John answered with joy. He said that Jesus must increase, but he must decrease. John was happy for Jesus to receive the honor, attention, and love. He knew that helping someone else be lifted up was not a loss, but a beautiful way to serve God.

John's story reminds us that getting along means we do not always need to be first, noticed, or praised. We can rejoice when someone else gets a special part, a compliment, or an opportunity. When we love others with brotherly kindness, we are glad to honor them instead of trying to take the honor for ourselves.

🌟 True Story

Orville and Wilbur Wright were two brothers who dreamed of building a flying machine. For years, they studied, worked, tested, failed, and tried again. They needed each other, and they learned to work as a team. Getting along helped them keep trying when their experiments failed. Instead of blaming each other, they shared ideas, solved problems, and kept working side by side.

At last, in 1903, their airplane was ready to test at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. But there was only room for one pilot. Both brothers had worked hard, and both could have wanted the honor of being first.

Instead of arguing, they chose a fair way. They flipped a coin. Wilbur won the toss and tried first, but that attempt did not succeed. A few days later, after repairs were made, Orville took the controls for the first successful flight.

Wilbur did not stand back with jealousy. As Orville's plane lifted into the air, Wilbur ran alongside it, helping steady the wing. He excitedly cheered at the top of his lungs!

That day, Orville flew for twelve seconds, and the world's first successful powered airplane flight was made. But it had taken both brothers working together.

The Wright brothers' story reminds us that love does not always need to be first. True love can rejoice when someone else gets the special moment. When we prefer one another in honor, we are willing to encourage, help, and cheer for others instead of trying to take all the attention for ourselves.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the crowds started leaving John to follow Jesus, what did John's followers complain about?
- Instead of demanding to be the first to fly, what amazing choice did Wilbur make?
- How does Wilbur's choice perfectly match the command in Romans 12:10?

🎨 Activity:

Divide the children into pairs and give each pair one large piece of paper and one crayon. Ask them to draw a house together, but tell them only one person is allowed to hold the crayon at a time! Explain that the only way to finish the beautiful picture is to take turns and happily let the other person shine. Romans 12:10 means we gladly step back to honor our friends or siblings!

Getting Along Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#184) — KJV

Ephesians 4:31–32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Because God has completely forgiven all our sins, He can give us the strength to let go of our anger and kindly forgive others!

📖 Bible Story (Luke 22)

On the night before Jesus died, He went with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. While He was there, a crowd came with swords and clubs to arrest Him.

The disciples were frightened and upset. They loved Jesus and did not want Him to be taken away. Peter pulled out a sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus did not want His followers to fight with anger. He told Peter to stop and put away his sword. Jesus was showing that His kingdom is not built by wrath, revenge, or violence.

Then Jesus did something amazing. The wounded servant had come with the men who were arresting Him, but Jesus still showed him mercy. He reached out His hand and healed the man's ear.

Jesus could have called angels to defend Him. He could have spoken angry words to the men who were treating Him unfairly. Instead, He chose kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness.

In that dark garden, Jesus showed what Ephesians 4:31–32 means. He put away bitterness, wrath, anger, and evil speaking. He answered hatred with healing.

Jesus' story reminds us that getting along often begins when we put down our own "weapons" of anger. We may not carry swords, but we can hurt others with sharp words, cold silence, or revengeful actions. Jesus can help us put those things away and choose kindness, forgiveness, and mercy instead.

☀️ True Story

In December 1914, World War I was raging across Europe. British and German soldiers lived in muddy trenches only a short distance apart. They saw each other as enemies.

The fighting had brought fear, anger, and bitterness. Many soldiers were exhausted, far from home, and missing their families. It would have been easy for their hearts to stay full of wrath and hatred.

Then, on Christmas Eve, something unexpected happened. The guns grew quiet. Across the dark battlefield, British soldiers heard German soldiers singing a Christmas carol. Some had placed small candles near their trenches.

Soon, the British soldiers began singing too. Slowly and carefully, men from both sides climbed out of their trenches and stepped into the dangerous space between them.

Instead of fighting, they shook hands. Some exchanged small gifts, such as chocolate, buttons, hats, or food. Some showed pictures of their families. In a few places, soldiers even played a friendly game of soccer.

The war sadly continued later, but for that short time, men who had viewed each other as enemies chose kindness instead of hatred. They put away angry words and treated one another like human beings instead of targets.

The Christmas Truce reminds us that getting along often begins when we let God soften our hearts. Bitterness, anger, and evil speaking can make people seem like enemies. But when we choose kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness, walls of hatred can begin to come down.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the angry mob arrived to completely surround Jesus, what did Peter quickly do with his sword?
- During World War I, what beautiful song did the German soldiers start singing on Christmas Eve?
- Ephesians 4 tells us to put away all bitterness and anger. Who is someone you might need to show God's forgiveness to today?

🎬 Activity:

Give everyone a heavy rock to hold tightly in their fist with their arm stretched straight out. After a minute, their arms will start to ache! Ask them to completely open their hands and let the heavy rock drop to the floor. Explain that holding onto anger and bitterness is exactly like holding that heavy rock—it only hurts us and makes us exhausted. Ephesians 4 reminds us to drop the heavy rocks and choose forgiveness!

Getting Along

Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#185) — KJV

Philippians 2:3–4 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God's Word says that the secret to getting along is humility. We must stop demanding to be first and instead choose to treat other people as more important than ourselves!

📖 Bible Story (Exodus 32)

Moses was high on Mount Sinai, receiving God's law. Down below, the Israelites became impatient and made a terrible choice. They built a golden calf and worshiped it instead of the true God who had rescued them from Egypt.

Their sin was very serious. God had brought them out of slavery, led them through the Red Sea, fed them in the wilderness, and spoken His law to them. Yet they quickly turned away and bowed before an idol.

God told Moses what the people had done. Then He said that He could set them aside and make a great nation from Moses instead. If Moses had been thinking only about himself, he might have accepted the honor and left the people behind.

But Moses had the spirit of Christ. He did not try to lift himself higher or seek an easier path for himself. Instead, he thought about God's name and the people who still needed mercy.

Moses prayed for Israel. He knew the people had sinned, but he also knew that God is merciful. Later, Moses even said that if God would not forgive them, he would rather have his own name blotted out of God's book than see them destroyed.

Moses' heart reminds us of Jesus. Jesus did not cling to His own comfort, honor, or safety. He humbled Himself and came down to save us, even when it cost Him everything.

This story teaches us that getting along means having the mind of Christ. Instead of always protecting our own way, our own feelings, or our own importance, we can ask God to help us care about others. Jesus can give us a heart that is willing to serve, forgive, pray, and seek peace.

☀️ True Story

Eugenio Monti was a famous Italian bobsled driver competing in the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. He was one of the best drivers in the world, and after his run, his team was in first place.

His biggest rivals were the British team, driven by Tony Nash. Just before their final run, the British team discovered a serious problem. A bolt on the rear axle of their sled had broken. Without it, they could not safely steer. They were about to withdraw from the competition.

Eugenio could have easily ignored them. If the British team quit, Eugenio's gold medal was almost guaranteed. Instead, he immediately grabbed a wrench, removed the exact bolt off his own sled, and sent it down the mountain to his rivals. Eugenio did not want to win by watching someone else fail.

The British team attached the bolt, made their final run, and won the gold medal. Eugenio's team finished with the bronze.

When reporters praised Eugenio for helping his rivals, he did not brag or try to take credit. He simply said that Tony Nash did not win because of the bolt; he won because he drove the fastest run.

Eugenio's story reminds us that getting along means caring more about what is right than about being first. A selfish heart says, "I hope they fail so I can win." But the mind of Christ says, "How can I help?" When we love others, we can rejoice when they succeed, even if it costs us praise, attention, or first place.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the Israelites worshipped the golden calf, what amazing offer did God make to Moses?
- What did Eugenio Monti give to the British bobsled team right before their final race?
- Philippians 2 says we should esteem others "better than themselves." What is one way you can put a friend or a sibling first today?

🎬 Activity:

Have the children line up at a doorway. Tell them there is a special prize or treat on the other side. Normally, everyone would rush to be the very first person through the door! Challenge them to practice Philippians 2 by stepping back and saying, "After you!" to the person next to them until the entire line has gone through. Explain that true humility means we joyfully choose to put our friends in first place!

Hurt Feelings

Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#186) — KJV

Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that even when people are terribly mean to us and deeply hurt our feelings, He can take that painful situation and turn it into something beautifully good!

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 37-50)

Joseph grew up in a family filled with jealousy and hurt feelings. His ten older brothers hated him so much that they threw him into a pit and sold him as a slave to traders going to Egypt.

For many years, Joseph suffered because of what his brothers had done. He worked as a slave, was falsely accused, and was put in prison for a crime he did not commit. He had many reasons to feel angry, bitter, and forgotten.

But God was still with Joseph. In time, God brought him out of prison and made him a ruler in Egypt. When a terrible famine came, Joseph was given the important work of storing and sharing food.

One day, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy grain. They bowed before him, not knowing who he was. Joseph could have used his power to punish them for all the pain they had caused.

Instead, Joseph chose mercy. When he finally told them who he was, his brothers were afraid. But Joseph said, "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good."

Joseph was not saying their sin was right. What they had done was wrong and painful. But Joseph trusted that God had been working even through the hurt.

Joseph's story reminds us that God can take painful things and bring good from them. When people hurt our feelings, we do not have to hold on to bitterness. We can bring our pain to God, ask Him to help us forgive, and trust Him to use even hard things for good.

☀️ True Story

In the early 2000s, Jaylen Arnold was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome when he was a child. This condition caused sudden sounds and movements, called tics, that he could not control. Some children at school did not understand. They teased him, copied his movements, and bullied him because he was different.

Their words and actions hurt Jaylen deeply. The bullying became so hard that he had to leave school for a while. He could have held on to anger and bitterness toward the children who had hurt him.

But Jaylen made a brave choice. When he was only eight years old, he went back to speak to some of the same classmates who had bullied him. He wanted to help them understand Tourette Syndrome and learn how much bullying hurts.

Jaylen was scared, but he did not let fear or hurt feelings stop him. He used his painful experience to teach kindness. His message became "Bullying No Way!"

That brave visit grew into Jaylen's Challenge, an anti-bullying program that teaches children to speak up, understand differences, and choose kindness instead of cruelty. Over the years, Jaylen has shared his story with many students.

Jaylen's story reminds us that hurt feelings do not have to turn into bitterness. With God's help, our pain can become a way to understand and help others. When we forgive, choose kindness, and let God use our hard experiences, He can bring good from what once hurt us.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible things did Joseph's jealous older brothers do to him when he was a boy?
- When Jaylen Arnold was bullied because of his Tourette's Syndrome, what famous charity did he start to help others?
- When someone hurts your feelings or says something mean to you, how can you act like Joseph and Jaylen instead of getting angry?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a piece of dark-colored construction paper and ask them to tear it into tiny, messy pieces. Explain that this represents how our feelings look when people say mean things and hurt us. Now, give them a bottle of glue and a white piece of paper. Challenge them to glue the torn pieces together to create a beautiful, brand-new mosaic picture! Explain that God can take our torn, hurt feelings and build something beautiful!

Hurt Feelings

Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#187) — KJV

Psalms 28:7 "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people say mean things and hurt our feelings, we don't have to fight back; if we trust God and pray, He will be our strong shield and protect our hearts!

📖 Bible Story (1 Samuel 1)

For many years, a woman named Hannah carried a heavy sadness in her heart. She deeply wanted a child, but she had no children. Another woman, Peninnah, was very unkind to her and often said hurtful things.

Peninnah's words wounded Hannah deeply. She constantly bullied Hannah, teased her, and provoked her on purpose just to make her cry. Year after year, Peninnah said cruel things that hurt Hannah so badly she could not even eat her dinner.

Hannah could have answered with angry words. She could have tried to hurt Peninnah back. But instead of fighting with her mouth, Hannah brought her pain to God. She did not pretend the words did not hurt. She simply chose to take the hurt to the One who could understand her completely. Instead of letting Peninnah's cruelty make her bitter, Hannah let her pain push her closer to God.

At the tabernacle, Hannah prayed with all her heart. She was so deeply troubled that her lips moved, but no sound came out. Eli the priest misunderstood her at first, but Hannah explained that she was pouring out her soul before the Lord.

After Hannah prayed, something changed in her heart. The Bible says she went away and was no longer sad. God had heard her prayer, and in His time He gave her a son named Samuel.

Hannah's story reminds us that when people hurt our feelings, we do not have to answer with anger. We can pour out our hearts to God. He understands every hurt, and He can give us peace instead of bitterness.

☀️ True Story

In the late 2000s, a teenage girl named Lizzie Velásquez discovered something very hurtful online. Someone had made a cruel video about her and called her "the world's ugliest woman." Millions of people had seen it, and many strangers had written painful comments. Some people even told her she shouldn't exist!

Lizzie was born with a rare condition that made her body look different from most people. Because of this, others sometimes stared, mocked, or judged her without knowing her heart.

When Lizzie read the cruel words, she felt deeply hurt. She cried and wondered why people would say such terrible things about someone they did not even know. It would have been easy for her to become angry and spend her life trying to hurt others back.

But Lizzie chose a different path. With help from her family and her faith, she decided that cruel words would not define who she was. She wanted her life to be shaped by kindness, courage, and purpose instead of bitterness.

Later, Lizzie began speaking to others about bullying, beauty, and treating people with respect. She used the pain she had experienced to encourage children and adults to be kinder.

Lizzie's story reminds us that hurtful words do not have to control our hearts. When people are unkind, we can bring our pain to God, choose not to fight back, and ask Him to help us become stronger, kinder, and more forgiving.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What cruel thing did Peninnah do to Hannah year after year to hurt her feelings?
- When Lizzie found a terribly mean video about herself, what did she choose to do instead of fighting back?
- If someone says something mean that hurts your feelings, how can you trust God to be your "shield" today?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a hard, raw potato and a soft sponge. Drop the potato into a bowl of water and watch it sink straight to the bottom. Explain that when we hold onto offended, hurt feelings, our hearts become hard and heavy! Now, drop the sponge into the water. Watch it cheerfully float and soak up the water. Explain that when we pray and trust God with our hurts, He gives us a soft, forgiving heart that easily floats right above the heavy anger!

Hurt Feelings

Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#188) — NKJV

Psalms 62:5–6 "My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that when people let us down or hurt our feelings, He will be our steady rock and our strong defense, so our hearts don't have to be shaken!

📖 Bible Story (2 Timothy 4)

The apostle Paul had spent his life preaching about Jesus. He had traveled to many places, started churches, and made very close friends. But near the end of his life, Paul was put in prison in Rome and brought before rulers to defend his faith.

Because Paul had spent his entire life helping others and building up the church, he naturally expected his best friends to stand right by his side. He needed his friends to be his witnesses, to support him, and to help defend him in the courtroom.

But when the doors opened and Paul looked around, the room was empty. His closest friends were too scared of the guards to show up. Every single one of them had abandoned him in his very sad hour.

Paul could have complained that his friends had failed him when he needed them most. But Paul chose a different response. He wrote, "No one stood with me, but all forsook me... But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me."

Paul did not pretend their choice was right. Being left alone still hurt. But he gave that hurt to God instead of holding onto resentment.

Then Paul asked that their wrong choice would not be charged against them. People had failed him, but Jesus had not left him. Paul's story reminds us that when others disappoint us, God can be our steady rock and strong defense. We do not have to let hurt feelings shake our hearts. We can bring our pain to Him, forgive those who fail us, and trust that He will stand with us.

☀️ True Story

In 2006, a talented young singer named Mandisa auditioned for a famous television singing competition. She had a beautiful voice and was thrilled to share her gift with the judges. But after her audition, one of the judges made a cruel comment about her weight on national television.

Millions of people watched as the judge openly mocked her. Mandisa was deeply hurt, and she felt humiliated in front of the entire world. She had every right to be offended. She easily could have yelled right back at the judge or demanded a big apology. But Mandisa was a strong Christian. Instead, she prayed and asked God to help her forgive.

A few weeks later, Mandisa had the chance to stand right in front of that very same judge again. Instead of insulting him, she looked him right in the eyes with amazing grace. She calmly told him that his cruel words had deeply hurt her.

But then she said she had decided to forgive him! She said if Jesus could forgive her, she could forgive him. The judge was shocked and immediately apologized to her!

Her response surprised many people. Instead of letting cruel words control her, Mandisa chose to let God guard her heart. She did not fight back with anger. She answered with grace.

Mandisa's story reminds us that hurtful words do not have to make us bitter. When someone wounds our feelings, we can run to God, ask Him to steady our hearts, and let Him help us forgive. God can make us strong enough to answer hurt with grace instead of revenge.

💬 Discussion Questions:

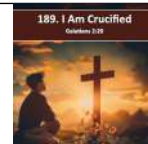
- When the Apostle Paul was put on trial for his life in Rome, what did his closest friends do?
- When Mandisa stood in front of the cruel TV judge a second time, what did she choose to say to him?
- When a friend lets you down or hurts your feelings, how can you make God your "rock" today so you aren't shaken?

🎨 Activity:

Place a large, heavy rock and a small, light paper cup on a table. Give the children a handheld fan or a piece of cardboard and let them take turns fanning both objects as hard as they can! Watch the paper cup easily blow away while the rock stays perfectly still. Explain that when our feelings get hurt, angry words can blow us away like the cup, but God makes us unshakeable rocks!

Hurt Feelings

Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#189) — KJV

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people are mean to us, we don't have to fight back or get offended. Because Jesus lives inside us, we can stay peaceful and show grace instead. Our pride is completely dead, and a dead person cannot get their feelings hurt!

📖 Bible Story (Luke 9)

Jesus and His close friends were traveling on a very long journey to the city of Jerusalem. As they walked along the road, it started getting late. Jesus sent a few messengers ahead to a nearby Samaritan village to find a place to sleep.

But the people in the village were not welcoming at all. They saw that Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, and they rudely rejected Him. They refused to open their doors or let Him stay there for the night. This was a very sad and hurtful offense!

James and John were deeply upset. They loved Jesus and thought the village had treated Him shamefully. But their anger quickly became too harsh. They asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy the people. They wanted to fight back and get revenge for their hurt feelings.

But Jesus turned around and gently corrected His angry friends. Jesus told them that they did not understand what kind of spirit they were supposed to have.

He did not want His disciples to answer rejection with revenge. The people had been rude, but Jesus had not come to destroy them. He had come to save. Instead of arguing, threatening, or proving His power, Jesus simply went with His disciples to another village. He did not let rejection control His spirit.

This story reminds us that when people hurt our feelings, we do not have to fight back. Pride wants to punish, answer sharply, or prove that we are right. But when Jesus lives in us, He can help us stay peaceful, walk away gently, and leave the situation in God's hands.

☀️ True Story

In 2007, a woman named Melina Salazar worked as a waitress at a diner in Texas. She was a very kind and diligent woman. But every single day, she had to serve a regular customer named Walter Swords. Walter was famously grumpy and incredibly unkind to her.

He would always complain loudly about his food and say rude things that deeply hurt her feelings. He was so demanding that the other waitresses completely refused to serve him! Melina could have let her pride take over. She easily could have yelled right back at him.

But Melina was a Christian. Instead of getting offended and fighting back, she chose to let the love of Jesus live through her actions. For seven years, Melina refused to get angry.

No matter how grumpy Walter was to her, she always walked up to his table with a cheerful smile. She made sure his food was cooked perfectly, and she served him with amazing patience and grace. One day, Walter sadly passed away.

A few days later, Melina received a surprising phone call from a lawyer. Even though he had always acted grumpy, Walter had secretly noticed her amazing love. Because she always served him with a humble heart, he had secretly left her a large reward in his will!

Melina's story reminds us that loving others is not only for people who are easy to love. When Jesus lives in us, He can help us answer rudeness with patience and hurtful words with grace. Our kindness may reach someone's heart in ways we never see.

💬 Discussion Questions:

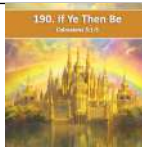
- When Jesus sent messengers to the Samaritan village, how did the people treat Him?
- How did the waitress Melina treat the grumpy, insulting customer every single day instead of fighting back?
- When someone is mean to you, how can you let Jesus "live inside you" to show them love instead of getting angry?

🎬 Activity:

Ask for a brave volunteer to lie flat on the floor, close their eyes, and pretend to be completely, one-hundred-percent dead! Challenge the rest of the children to gently try to "offend" the dead person by calling their shoes ugly or telling them their hair is messy. (No touching allowed!) Observe that the "dead" person does not flinch, argue, or get their feelings hurt at all. Explain that when we are dead to our own pride, cruel insults simply cannot make us mad.

Hurt Feelings

Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#190) — KJV

Colossians 3:1–5 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

If we keep our eyes looking up at heaven and remember how much Jesus loves us, the cruel words of this earth won't bother us!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 7)

Stephen was a faithful man who loved Jesus and preached the truth with courage. But some of the religious leaders became angry with him. They did not want to hear his message, so they brought him before the council and accused him falsely.

Stephen could have become afraid or angry. The men around him were speaking harshly, and their faces were full of hatred. But Stephen did not let their anger control his heart.

Instead, Stephen kept his mind fixed on God. He shifted his focus away from the painful things on this earth. While the leaders were yelling at him, Stephen literally looked straight up into the sky. He saw heaven opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His face even began to shine as brightly as an angel!

When Stephen told them what he saw, the angry men rushed at him and began throwing stones. Their words and actions were cruel, but Stephen still did not answer with bitterness.

As he was dying, Stephen prayed for the very people who were hurting him. He asked God not to hold their sin against them.

Because Stephen was looking toward heaven, the insults and hatred of earth did not have the power to control his spirit.

Stephen's story reminds us that when people hurt us, we do not have to stare at their angry faces or let their words fill our hearts. We can look to Jesus. When our hearts are set on heaven, God can give us strength to forgive instead of fighting back.

☀️ True Story

In the eighteenth century, there was a very famous and bold preacher named George Whitefield. He traveled all over the world sharing the wonderful good news about Jesus. But sadly, not everyone liked his preaching.

Some people often yelled very cruel things at George or even threw mud at him while he was speaking to the crowds. One day, he received a very mean letter in the mail.

The unkind letter was filled with hurtful insults that were carefully designed to deeply hurt his feelings. The rude person who wrote it clearly wanted to start an argument or make him angry.

But George had learned not to let insults rule his heart. Instead of getting his feelings hurt, he remained peaceful and calmly wrote a reply.

He wrote back, "I thank you for your letter. But if you truly knew my heart, you would have said even worse things!" George knew he was a sinner who needed Jesus, and that helped him stay humble.

Because George only cared about what God thought of him, human insults simply could not hurt him at all. Instead of looking down on the person who insulted him, George looked up to Christ. He trusted God to defend him and kept preaching the gospel.

George Whitefield's story reminds us that cruel words do not have to shake us. When we remember how much we need Jesus, pride becomes weaker. We can let God guard our hearts, answer gently, and keep doing what is right.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What amazing sight did Stephen see when he looked up into the sky instead of focusing on the angry mob?
- When George Whitefield received a letter filled with mean insults, how did he peacefully reply?
- If someone says something mean to you today, how can you "look up" and set your mind on heaven instead of getting upset?

🎬 Activity:

Tape a picture of Jesus to the ceiling. Scatter crumpled newspaper on the floor. Have the children walk around staring straight down at the messy trash. Next, tell them to stop, tilt their heads back, and stare only at the beautiful picture above. Ask them if they can still see the trash! Explain that when we fix our eyes on heavenly things, the hurtful things on earth simply fade away.

Forgiveness/Revenge

Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#191) — KJV

Luke 6:37–38 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Since God has completely forgiven our massive pile of sins, we must cheerfully forgive the small mistakes of others instead of demanding payback!

📖 Bible Story (Matthew 18)

Jesus told a powerful story about a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. One servant owed the king an enormous debt—so much money that he could never pay it back.

The king ordered that the servant and his family be sold to pay the debt. The servant fell down before the king and begged, "Please be patient with me, and I will pay everything."

The king knew the servant could not really repay such a huge debt. But his heart was moved with compassion. Instead of demanding payment, the king forgave the whole debt and let the servant go free. The servant walked out owing nothing, even though he had done nothing to earn such mercy. He should have left the palace with a soft, thankful heart.

But that same servant went out and found another man who owed him a small amount of money. He grabbed him and demanded payment. When the man begged for patience, the servant refused. He had him thrown into prison.

Other servants saw what happened and were very upset. They told the king. The king called the unforgiving servant back and asked why he had refused to show mercy after receiving so much mercy himself.

Jesus' story reminds us that God has forgiven us far more than anyone will ever owe us. When we remember His mercy, we should not hold tightly to anger or demand payback. Because God has forgiven us, He wants us to forgive others with a merciful heart.

☀️ True Story

In 2015, a man named Dan walked out to his parked car after a very long day of work. As he walked up to his expensive car, he noticed something upsetting. Someone had accidentally scraped the side of his vehicle and caused some damage!

Under the windshield wiper, Dan found a note. A college student named Monica had written an apology and left her phone number. She explained that she had accidentally scratched the car and wanted to do the right thing. She also left her very last twenty dollar bill under the wiper, hoping it would somehow help pay for the repairs. Dan looked at the small amount of money.

Dan could have demanded that Monica pay for the repairs. He could have been angry, harsh, or impatient. After all, the car really was damaged, and Monica really was responsible.

But He remembered exactly how hard it was to be a young, broke student making mistakes. Because he had been shown so much grace in his own life, his heart melted with compassion. He quickly decided to freely pass that exact same mercy right along to her.

That evening, Dan called the anxious student. But he did not threaten to call the police or demand insurance money. Instead, he fully forgave the damage and told her to take that twenty dollar bill to buy a great dinner.

Dan's story reminds us that forgiveness means letting go of the desire to make someone pay. When we remember how much mercy God has shown us, we can ask Him to help us treat others with mercy too.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- How much did the first servant owe the king, and what did the king do with the debt?
- When Monica accidentally scratched the expensive car, what did the owner Dan tell her to do with her twenty-dollar bill?
- If a friend breaks one of your toys or hurts you, how can you remember mercy instead of demanding payback?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a piece of yarn and have them tie a knot in the middle. Tell them to pull the ends as hard as they can! The knot only gets tighter, just like holding onto angry grudges. Now, have them gently untangle the knot until the yarn is straight. Explain that forgiveness gently unties the angry knots in our hearts so we can be free!

Forgiveness/Revenge

Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#192) — KJV

Psalm 142:6–7 "Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name..." **Luke 23:34** "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." **Acts 7:60** "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people are actively being cruel to us, we don't have to wait for an apology to show mercy. Because Jesus has flooded our hearts with His amazing love, we can choose to forgive our enemies right in the middle of the hurt!

📖 Bible Story (Luke 23)

Jesus lived a perfect life, healing the sick, opening blind eyes, and showing nothing but compassion to everyone He met. Yet, the religious leaders unfairly arrested Him and handed Him over to the Roman soldiers. As they led Jesus up a hill called Golgotha, the crowd shouted insults and mocked Him.

When they finally nailed Him to the wooden cross, the soldiers coldly divided His clothes and gambled for them right at His feet. In a moment of such deep sadness, almost any person would have begged for a sudden rescue or been very angry at the men who were hurting Him. Jesus could have called angels to rescue Him. He could have spoken words of judgment against the people who were hurting Him.

But Jesus did something that completely changed the universe. While the soldiers were actively hurting Him, and before a single person had even thought about saying they were sorry, Jesus looked down from the cross with a heart full of grace.

He prayed out loud, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He did not wait for His enemies to realize their mistake, and He did not demand an apology first. He offered mercy right in the middle of His suffering.

Jesus' prayer shows us the highest kind of forgiveness. When people hurt us, we do not have to answer with revenge. We can ask God to give us His love, help us forgive, and keep our hearts free from bitterness.

Jesus' story reminds us that forgiveness is not weakness. It is the strong love of God living in the heart.

☀️ True Story

In 1996, an eighteen-year-old teenager named Keshia Thomas went to a peaceful rally in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Keshia was Black, and a group of white supremacists had come to town. These men believed cruel, hateful things about Black people and other groups.

Suddenly, someone spotted a white man wearing a shirt that supported the racist group. The angry crowd instantly turned on him. They knocked the man to the ground and began to hurt him. Keshia was standing right there.

The white man on the ground belonged to a group that hated her simply because she was Black. It would have been easy for her to just step back into the shadows and watch the crowd take out their frustration on her enemy.

Instead, Keshia immediately threw her own body over the fallen man, shielding his head and chest from the incoming blows. The crowd was so stunned by her selfless mercy that they backed away, and the man was saved.

Keshia did not protect him because he deserved it or because hatred did not matter. She protected him because she believed cruelty should not be answered with more cruelty.

Years later, the man's son came to thank her. He told her that because she had protected his father, his own life had been changed too. Keshia's story reminds us that mercy is stronger than revenge. When people are cruel, God can help us choose compassion instead of hatred. Forgiveness does not mean wrong is okay; it means we refuse to let bitterness control our hearts.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- While Jesus was hanging on the cross, what amazing prayer did He pray for the soldiers?
- When the angry mob knocked the hateful man to the ground, what did Keshia Thomas do to protect him?
- If someone is actively being mean to you, how can you show "real-time" forgiveness before they even say sorry?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. Tell them to start drawing a beautiful picture. While they are drawing, walk around and gently (but annoyingly) tap their papers or lightly jiggle the table. Ask them how hard it is to keep drawing something beautiful while someone is actively bothering them! Explain that Jesus gives us the power to keep painting a beautiful picture of forgiveness, even when someone is actively being unkind.

Forgiveness/Revenge

Day 3



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#193) — KJV

Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Apply the Promise!

When someone hurts us, we don't need to try and get them back. We can step back and let the Lord handle the justice, choosing to show mercy instead of swinging a sword!

Bible Story (Philemon)

In the early church, a wealthy man named Philemon had a servant named Onesimus. One day, Onesimus made a very terrible choice. He wronged his master and then ran far away to the busy city of Rome. He became a runaway, hiding from the law.

Under the strict laws of that time, Philemon had the legal right to demand the absolute maximum punishment for a runaway. If Onesimus was caught, Philemon could have demanded a harsh penalty. He had a right to be deeply offended and angry.

But while hiding in Rome, Onesimus met the Apostle Paul. Paul taught him the wonderful good news about Jesus. Onesimus surrendered his life to God and became a Christian! Paul knew that Onesimus needed to go back and make things right with Philemon.

Paul sent Onesimus back home with a very special letter. He asked Philemon to completely drop his right to revenge. He asked him not to punish the runaway servant, but to instead offer him a brand-new chance. He asked for pure mercy.

Paul told Philemon to welcome Onesimus back, not as a servant to be punished, but as a beloved, forgiven brother in Christ. Philemon was asked to put away his sharp sword of legal justice and freely offer a beautiful pardon!

The book of Philemon reminds us that forgiveness means giving up our right to get even. When someone has wronged us, we can let God handle justice and ask Him to help us show mercy instead of revenge. Because Jesus has received us with love, we can learn to receive others with grace.

True Story

In 2004, Victoria Ruvolo was driving home when something terrible happened. A group of teenagers driving in the opposite direction recklessly threw a stolen twenty-pound frozen turkey out of their moving car. The turkey crashed through Victoria's windshield and struck her in the face.

The heavy bird broke straight through the windshield of her car, causing very serious injuries to her face. She spent weeks in the hospital and had to go through painful surgeries.

The police quickly caught the eighteen-year-old boy named Ryan who had thrown the turkey. Because of the pain and damage he had caused, Ryan was facing up to twenty-five years in prison. Soon it was finally time for the court hearing.

Instead of glaring at the teenager, Victoria walked up to the weeping boy in court. She reached out, wrapped her arms around him, and gently stroked his hair. She told him to make something good out of his life. Then she asked the judge to give Ryan a second chance, offering a life-changing hug instead of harsh punishments!

Because Victoria chose mercy, the judge happily agreed to a much lighter sentence. Ryan served only six months in jail instead of twenty-five years! He was so moved by her grace that he completely changed his life.

Victoria's story reminds us that forgiveness does not mean pretending wrong is harmless. What happened to her was serious and painful. But instead of using her pain to demand revenge, she chose mercy. When we give justice to God, He can help us lay down our anger and offer grace.

Discussion Questions:

- When the runaway servant Onesimus became a Christian, what did the Apostle Paul ask his master Philemon to do?
- What did Victoria do to the teenager, Ryan, right in the middle of the courtroom?
- If someone does something unfair to you, how can you give up your right to "get even" and choose to show them mercy instead?

Activity:

Give two children a short rope and have them gently pull back and forth. Explain that trying to get revenge is exactly like a never-ending tug-of-war. Tell one child to suddenly drop their end! The fight instantly ends. Explain that when we refuse to pull back against the people who hurt us and drop our right to get even, God takes over and brings peace!

Forgiveness/Revenge

Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#194) — KJV

Romans 12:20–21 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The absolute best way to win a fight is to surprise your enemy with radical kindness! When someone is mean to you, giving them a gift or a warm smile is like pouring warm, melting love right over their anger.

📖 Bible Story (2 Kings 6)

A huge army of enemy soldiers marched out to capture God's prophet, Elisha. But God protected Elisha in an amazing way! God made the enemy soldiers so confused that they couldn't see or understand where they were going.

Since they were lost, Elisha boldly walked right up to the confused soldiers and led them straight into the middle of his own city! Suddenly, the enemies blinked their eyes and realized they were trapped. They were surrounded by the powerful King of Israel and all his mighty guards!

The King of Israel looked at the trapped enemies and thought, "This is my perfect chance to get even!" He eagerly asked Elisha, "Should my army attack them and wipe them out?" The enemy had come to hurt God's prophet, so almost anyone else would have shouted, "Yes, fight them!"

But Elisha told the king not to hurt them at all! Instead, he said to set bread and water before them so they could eat and drink, and then send them safely home.

So the king prepared a great, delicious feast for the enemy soldiers. The men who had come to cause harm were given food, water, and mercy. After they had eaten, they were sent safely back to their master.

Elisha did not overcome evil with more evil. He showed the king a better way. Kindness did what revenge could not do, because after that, the enemy raiders stopped coming into the land of Israel. This story reminds us that God's way is not to "win" by hurting people back. When someone is unkind to us, we can ask God for the strength to answer with mercy.

☀️ True Story

In 2008, a social worker named Julio Diaz stepped off a subway train in New York City. As he walked through the station, a teenager came toward him with a knife and demanded his wallet.

Julio didn't scream or fight. He calmly handed the teenager his wallet. But as the mugger turned to run away, Julio called out to him. "Hey, wait a minute," Julio said. "You forgot something. It's cold tonight. If you are going to be robbing people all night, you should take my coat to keep you warm."

The teenager stopped, surprised. He asked Julio why he would offer him his coat. Julio explained that if the boy was willing to risk prison for a wallet, he must really need help. Julio explained that he had just been on his way to get dinner, and he warmly invited the mugger to come eat with him! The teenager was so confused by this incredible kindness that he put his knife away and followed Julio to a nearby diner.

At the restaurant, the workers greeted Julio warmly, and the teenager noticed how kindly Julio treated everyone. After the meal, Julio said he would gladly pay the bill, but the teenager still had his wallet. The young man handed it back. Then Julio gave him twenty dollars and asked if he could have the knife in exchange. The teenager gave it to him.

Julio's story reminds us that kindness can surprise anger and soften a hard moment. Instead of fighting back with fear or anger, Julio chose kindness—and it completely changed the situation. He did not answer evil with evil. He chose calmness, respect, and practical kindness. When we let God guide our hearts, He can help us overcome evil with good.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Elisha tell the king of Israel to do instead of fighting the trapped soldiers?
- What did the teenager on the subway platform demand from Julio?
- Romans 12 says we should overcome evil with good. If a sibling or friend is being mean to you, what is a "good" thing you can do to surprise them?

🎨 Activity:

Cut a few pieces of red or orange construction paper into the shape of hot coals. Write a kind, helpful action on each coal (like "sharing a toy" or "saying a nice word").

Explain that heaping "coals" on an enemy's head doesn't mean hurting them; it means surprising them with warm, melting kindness!

Forgiveness/Revenge

Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#195) — KJV

1 Peter 3:8–9 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people make mistakes or treat us poorly, we don't have to be mean back! Instead of holding grudges or acting superior, we can choose to be gentle, show deep compassion, and bless them like they are our own family.

📖 Bible Story (2 Samuel 9)

David was finally crowned as the King of Israel. But getting to the throne had been a painful journey. The previous ruler, King Saul, had spent years hunting David through the wilderness, trying to take his life. When Saul died, the normal custom for a new king was to destroy the old king's family so they could never try to steal the throne back.

But David did not want to rule with bitterness. Instead of seeking revenge against Saul's family, David asked his servants a surprising question: "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him God's kindness?"

His servants brought forward a young man named Mephibosheth. He was King Saul's grandson, and he had been severely crippled in both of his feet since he was a little boy. He may have been afraid when he was brought to the palace, because many kings destroyed the families of former enemies.

But David did not call him there to punish him. He spoke kindly and said, "Do not be afraid." David gave back the land that had belonged to Saul's family and invited Mephibosheth to eat at the king's table like one of his own sons.

David's kindness showed a heart free from revenge. He did not treat Mephibosheth like the grandson of an enemy. He treated him like family.

This story reminds us that forgiveness does more than refuse to hurt someone back. It can also choose kindness, compassion, and blessing. When God fills our hearts with His love, we can show mercy instead of holding onto old grudges.

☀️ True Story

In the 1500s, a Christian man named Dirk Willems was imprisoned in the Netherlands because of his faith. He believed in following Jesus, even when it was dangerous.

One winter night, Dirk escaped from prison and ran across a frozen pond. Because he had been in prison with little food, he was thin and light enough to cross the ice.

A guard chased after him. But as the guard ran across the pond, the ice cracked beneath him, and he fell into the freezing water. He cried out for help. Dirk heard the cry and stopped. Freedom was just ahead of him, but a man was sinking behind him. In that moment, Dirk chose the way of Jesus instead of the way of revenge.

Dirk had a choice. He could keep running and save himself. The man in the water was his enemy, and if Dirk helped him, he would almost certainly be captured again.

But Dirk could not ignore someone who was dying. He turned back, reached out, and pulled the guard from the icy water.

The guard was saved, but Dirk was captured again. Later, he was killed for his faith. Dirk had chosen mercy even when it cost him his life. His kindness showed that a heart filled with Jesus would rather save an enemy than escape with revenge.

Dirk Willems's story reminds us that forgiveness and compassion are stronger than revenge. When someone has hurt us, we may want to walk away and let them suffer. But Jesus calls us to bless instead of curse and to show mercy even to those who treat us like enemies.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When Mephibosheth was brought to the palace, what did King David do instead of punishing him?
- When the prison guard fell through the cracking ice, what incredible choice did Dirk Willems make?
- Mephibosheth thought he was in trouble, but he got a wonderful blessing instead. Have you ever made a mistake, and instead of yelling, someone showed you grace?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a dark piece of paper and a bright piece of paper. Have them crumple the dark paper, explaining that this represents holding onto anger or judgment. It feels tight and negative! Now, tell them to throw the dark paper away and fold the bright paper into a paper airplane. Let them gently toss it to a friend! Explain that when we let go of judgment, we can send a beautiful, uplifting blessing to someone else instead.

Persecution — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#196) — KJV

Matthew 5:10–12 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people treat us unfairly just because we love Jesus, we don't have to be discouraged. We can actually be incredibly happy, knowing that heaven is cheering for us and a great reward is waiting!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 4)

After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter and John boldly preached about Him in Jerusalem. They told the people that Jesus was alive and that everyone should obey God.

The religious leaders were angry. They did not want anyone teaching in Jesus' name, so they arrested the apostles and brought them before the council. The leaders commanded them to stop speaking about Jesus.

But Peter and John knew they had to obey God. They could not stop telling what they had seen and heard. Jesus had died, risen again, and changed their lives, and they loved Him too much to be silent.

This made the leaders even angrier. They ordered the apostles to be beaten. Then they warned them again not to speak in Jesus' name and let them go.

The apostles walked away with sore backs, but their hearts were full of joy. They were not happy because pain felt good. They were happy because they had been allowed to suffer for the One who had suffered so much for them.

Instead of feeling ashamed, they remembered that Jesus saw everything. Heaven knew they had stood faithfully for Him. That made their hearts strong. Then they went right back to teaching and preaching about Jesus.

Their story reminds us that when we are treated unfairly for loving Jesus, He can help us rejoice instead of feeling defeated. If we stay close to Him, He can fill our hearts so full of His love, courage, and hope that unkind words or unfair treatment cannot shake us.

☀️ True Story

In the early 1900s, a medical missionary named Eric B. Hare traveled to the deep jungles of Burma, a country now called Myanmar. He opened a clinic and a school to teach the local children about Jesus. When many of the young students gave their hearts to the Lord and decided to follow the Bible, the powerful village elders were furious.

The adults and other villagers constantly mocked the Christian children. They laughed at them, teased them, and called them foolish for giving up the village's traditional spirit worship. It was a very difficult, scary time for the young students. They could have easily become discouraged, yelled back, or run away crying. But Eric Hare taught them a better way.

When people laughed at them or made fun of their faith, the children stood together and sang hymns about Jesus. Instead of looking ashamed, their faces were bright with joy. Their songs rose above the teasing and reminded them that Jesus was with them.

The mockers expected the children to be afraid or angry, but the children answered with praise. The joyful, confident singing completely confused and silenced the people making fun of them.

Their story reminds us that when people make fun of us for loving Jesus, we do not have to be discouraged. We can remember that heaven sees, Jesus is near, and our reward is with Him. God can fill our hearts with so much joy that even unkind words cannot stop our song.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Peter and John bravely tell the religious leaders when they were commanded to stop speaking about Jesus?
- What did the young students in Burma do when the village elders made fun of them for following the Bible?
- If someone makes fun of you for believing in Jesus, how can you remember heaven and stay joyful?

🎨 Activity:

Give everyone a small square of bubble wrap. Explain that the bubbles represent our hearts, and our fingers pressing down represent persecution or people making fun of us. Have them press the bubbles and listen to the loud "POP!" Explain that instead of being crushed quietly, the pressure actually creates a fun, joyful noise! When we are persecuted for loving Jesus, God gives us the power to "pop" with joy!

Persecution — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#197) — KJV

Matthew 5:38–42 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When someone treats us unfairly or hurts us, we don't need to hurt them back. Jesus gives us the amazing strength to "turn the other cheek" and respond to hatred with overwhelming love!

📖 Bible Story (Matt. 26 & Luke 22)

Jesus lived a perfect life of love. He healed the sick, comforted the hurting, and taught people about His Father. But the proud religious leaders hated Him because His pure life showed the deep selfishness in their own hearts.

One night, guards arrested Jesus and brought Him to the palace of the high priest, desperate to find a reason to condemn Him to death. They paid men to tell terrible, twisted lies about the Savior, treating Him like a criminal even though He had done nothing wrong.

Through all the shouting and false accusations, Jesus stood perfectly calm and silent. His quiet dignity infuriated the high priest. Finally, the high priest demanded to know if Jesus was the Son of God. When Jesus answered with the truth, the leaders flew into a terrible rage.

They declared He was guilty of a crime and began to viciously mock Him. The guards blindfolded the Creator of the universe. They began spitting in His face and striking Him with their fists. One officer even slapped Jesus across the face, sarcastically demanding that He prophesy who had hit Him.

Jesus possessed limitless power. He easily could have called down ten thousand angels to instantly stop every cruel person in the room. But instead of returning an eye for an eye, Jesus quietly endured the agonizing humiliation. He proved that true strength is not losing our temper or fighting back. When others mock us or treat us unfairly, He can give us the strength to answer with grace and keep their wrong spirit from becoming our spirit!

☀️ True Story

In the early 1900s, a young Japanese Christian named Toyohiko Kagawa moved into a poor neighborhood in Kobe, Japan. He wanted to live among people who were suffering and show them the love of Jesus.

Toyohiko shared his food, clothing, and money with people in need. He taught children, helped the sick, and cared for those many others ignored.

Not everyone appreciated his kindness. One day, a violent gang leader approached the young missionary and demanded money. When Toyohiko gently refused to pay the bribe, the tough man flew into a terrible rage.

Without warning, the angry thug suddenly lashed out and struck Toyohiko brutally across the face. The heavy punch was so fierce that it actually knocked out several of his front teeth! The natural human instinct would be to fight back or scream for help.

But Toyohiko did something miraculous. With blood dripping from his mouth, the young missionary simply turned his head and calmly offered the angry thug his other cheek.

The man was stunned. Toyohiko's gentle response was so different from what he expected that it helped soften his heart.

Toyohiko Kagawa's story reminds us that returning evil for evil only keeps anger alive. When we belong to Jesus, He can help us stop the anger from bouncing back. We can choose gentleness, patience, and love, even when someone treats us unfairly.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the religious leaders slapped and spit on Jesus, how did He react?
- When the violent gang leader knocked out Toyohiko Kagawa's teeth, what did the young missionary do?
- Imagine you are on the playground and someone pushes past you to steal the swing! What unexpected 'turn the other cheek' move could you use to show kindness?

🎬 Activity:

Have everyone stand in a circle. Gently toss a hard rubber ball against a hard, brick wall (or the floor) and watch it bounce aggressively right back! Now, toss the same hard ball directly into a soft, fluffy pillow. It instantly stops and drops to the ground. Explain that when people throw mean words or actions at us, being soft and forgiving completely stops the anger from bouncing back!

Persecution — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#198) — KJV

Matthew 5:43–44, 46 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you... For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"

💖 Apply the Promise!

It is incredibly easy to love our close friends, but Jesus calls us to a much higher standard. He gives us the supernatural power to actually love our enemies, pray for the people who are mean to us, and show kindness to those who want to see us fail!

📖 Bible Story (1 Samuel 24)

For years, King Saul hunted David and tried to kill him. David had done nothing wrong to Saul, but Saul was jealous and angry. David had to hide in caves and mountains to stay alive.

One afternoon, King Saul walked into a dark, cool cave to rest. He was unaware that David and his men were hiding at the very back of the exact same cave! David's men whispered that this was his chance to get rid of his enemy. David could have hurt Saul and ended years of running.

But David would not do it. He quietly cut off a corner of Saul's robe, but even that troubled his heart. He knew it was not his place to take revenge. David firmly told his men that he would never lift a hand to harm the king.

After Saul left the cave, David called out to him. He showed Saul the piece of cloth and explained that he could have hurt him, but chose not to. David wanted Saul to understand that he was not his enemy.

Saul was deeply moved. He realized David had treated him with more kindness than he deserved. David had the chance to repay evil with evil, but he chose mercy instead.

David trusted God to handle justice. He refused to let Saul's hatred turn his own heart hateful. Instead of using his power to destroy his enemy, David showed patience, respect, and trust in God. This story reminds us that loving our enemies does not mean pretending wrong is right. It means we give revenge to God, pray for those who hurt us, and refuse to let bitterness rule our hearts. When Jesus lives in us, He can give us the strength to answer hatred with mercy.

☀️ True Story

During World War II, an American airman named Jacob DeShazer flew on a dangerous mission over Japan. After his plane ran out of fuel, he had to parachute into enemy-held territory. He was captured and thrown into a prisoner-of-war camp. For years, the guards starved him and treated him terribly. Jacob's heart filled with bitter anger, and he desperately wanted revenge.

But one day, the guards allowed Jacob to read a Bible. He read the exact words of Jesus in Matthew 5 to "pray for them which despitefully use you." Jacob realized his hatred was not making him free; it was keeping his heart in another kind of prison. He knew he could not forgive on his own.

Jacob began to pray for the exact guards who were hurting him. He asked God to take away his hatred and give him love instead. Slowly, God answered that prayer. Jacob started treating his cruel guards with deep respect.

After the war ended, Jacob returned to Japan, not with bombs or revenge, but as a missionary. While he was there, he printed a little booklet sharing how Jesus had completely replaced his hatred with forgiveness. One of the Japanese men who read it was the famous pilot who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, and that booklet inspired him to give his heart to Jesus, too! Jacob spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel to the very nation he had once hated.

Jacob's story shows that when you choose to pray for your enemies, God can give you the supernatural power to genuinely love the people who hurt you the most.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- When King Saul walked into the cave, what did David do instead of hurting him?
- While locked in his prison cell, what did Jacob DeShazer start doing for the cruel guards?
- Jesus said it is very easy to love people who are nice to us. Why do you think choosing to pray for an "enemy" can actually heal our own hearts, too?

🎨 Activity:

Hand out small, blank cards. Tell the children to think of someone who frustrates them or is hard to get along with. Have them use bright, cheerful crayons to draw a beautiful picture or write a kind prayer specifically for that person! Explain that Jesus gives us the special power to create something beautiful and loving for the exact people who make things difficult for us.

Persecution — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#199) — KJV

Matthew 10:22, 28 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved... And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." **Revelation 2:10** "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When people hate us or treat us unfairly just for loving Jesus, we do not need to be afraid. If we stay brave and faithful to the very end, God promises us an eternal, beautiful crown of life!

📖 Bible Story (Acts 14)

Paul and Barnabas were preaching about Jesus in the city of Lystra. While they were there, God used Paul to heal a man who had never been able to walk. The people were amazed when they saw the man leap up and begin walking.

At first, the crowd was excited. They even wanted to treat Paul and Barnabas like gods. But Paul and Barnabas quickly stopped them. They told the people that they were only men and that everyone should turn from idols to the living God.

Then some angry men came from other cities and turned the crowd against Paul. The same people who had just been amazed by him now listened to lies about him. Soon the crowd became violent. They threw stones at Paul until they thought he was dead. Then they dragged his bruised body outside the city and left him there.

The believers gathered around Paul, probably wondering if he would live. Then, by God's mercy, Paul got up. His body was sore, but his faith was not broken. He did not decide that following Jesus was too hard or too dangerous.

Instead, Paul went back into the city. The next day, he left with Barnabas and continued preaching in another place. Later, he even returned to encourage the believers and remind them that following Jesus can include hardship.

Paul's story shows that people may praise us one day and reject us the next. They may misunderstand us, turn against us, or treat us unfairly because we love Jesus. But God can give us courage to stand up again, keep trusting Him, and stay faithful until the end.

☀️ True Story

In West Africa, a teenager named Ramata became very sick. After local Christians prayed for her, God healed her body. As she learned more about Jesus and His forgiveness, she made the life-changing decision to give her heart to Him.

But Ramata's family was angry about her new faith. They wanted her to stop following Jesus and return to their old religion. When she refused, they treated her cruelly and tried to make her give up her faith.

One day, they locked Ramata in a small room without food or water. They thought suffering would make her stop trusting Jesus. Ramata was afraid and weak, but she prayed, asking God for courage and strength to remain faithful. She could not see a way out, but she believed Jesus could still see her inside that dark room.

For four days, Ramata stayed locked inside. God did not forget her. When her family finally opened the door, they were shocked to see that she was still alive. Other Christians helped, and Ramata was released.

Even after that, life was not easy. Ramata's family still rejected her for many years. But she kept trusting Jesus, and God gave her strength to remain faithful.

Later, by God's grace, Ramata and her father forgave each other. Her story reminds us that people may mistreat us because we love Jesus, but they cannot take Jesus out of our hearts. We do not need to be afraid of those who hurt the body. If we stay faithful to Christ, He will give us courage, strength, and a reward that lasts forever.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- After the angry mob dragged Paul out of the city, what amazing thing did he do instead of running away in fear?
- When Ramata was locked in a dark room without food or water, what did she pray for instead of giving up her faith?
- Imagine someone tries to scare you by saying you can't be in their club if you love Jesus. What is a brave, confident way you could respond to them without being afraid?

🎨 Activity:

Have the children sit in a circle. Take a soft, lightweight ball (like a foam ball or a beach ball) and physically press it down hard under a pillow or a heavy blanket. Explain that persecution is when the world tries to press Christians down or make them afraid. Suddenly, pull the pillow away and watch the ball instantly pop right back into its original shape! Explain that just like Paul and Ramata, God gives us the supernatural power to "bounce back" with courage.

Persecution — Day 5



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#200) — KJV

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Luke 6:23 "Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven..."

1 Peter 3:14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;"

Apply the Promise!

When we suffer for doing what is right, we do not need to be afraid. Even though following Jesus can bring hard times, God promises that our heavenly reward will make us leap for joy!

Bible Story

Before Jesus died, His disciples were frightened. When soldiers came to arrest Him, they ran away. After Jesus was crucified, they hid behind locked doors, trembling with fear that the religious leaders would come to execute them, too. But after Jesus rose from the dead and filled them with the Holy Spirit, everything changed!

The disciples realized that if Jesus could conquer the grave, they had absolutely nothing left to fear on this earth. They boldly marched out of hiding and began preaching the gospel. The angry kings and religious leaders ordered them to stop, but the disciples loved Jesus too much to stay quiet.

Because they chose to live godly lives, they faced terrible persecution. Some of them were beaten. Some were put in prison. Later, many followers of Jesus suffered greatly because they would not give up their faith. But they remembered that people could hurt their bodies, but they could not take away eternal life with Christ.

The disciples did not become brave because persecution was easy. They became brave because Jesus was real to them. They knew He had conquered death, and they believed His promise of a heavenly reward.

Their story reminds us that following Jesus may bring hard times, but we do not need to be afraid. When we belong to Christ, He can give us courage to stay faithful. Even if people mock us, reject us, or treat us unfairly, Jesus sees, Jesus strengthens, and Jesus has a crown of life waiting for those who love Him.

True Story

In the 1800s, a ruler named Queen Ranavalona took the throne in the island of Madagascar. She despised the Christian missionaries who had recently brought the Bible to her country, and in a furious rage, she completely outlawed Christianity. She passed a new law declaring that anyone caught praying to Jesus, singing hymns, or even owning a tiny scrap of scripture would be punished or executed.

Thousands of new believers were forced to flee for their lives. But instead of abandoning their faith, the Christians of Madagascar went deep underground! They secretly hiked into the thick, treacherous jungles and hid inside dark, damp mountain caves. In the pitch-black shadows, they would light small fires, quietly sing praises to God, and carefully read their hidden, worn-out Bibles.

The queen's ruthless soldiers hunted them continuously. One of the first believers they captured was a brave young woman named Rasalama. The soldiers locked her in heavy iron chains and demanded that she give up the names of the other Christians hiding in the caves. But Rasalama completely refused to betray her Savior or her friends.

On the morning she was led to her execution, Rasalama did not cry or beg for mercy. Instead, she joyfully sang beautiful hymns the entire walk! Her breathtaking courage absolutely stunned the angry soldiers and deeply inspired the secret church. Because believers like Rasalama bravely endured the darkest persecution, the church in Madagascar secretly survived the queen's reign, proving that earthly rulers can never extinguish the glorious light of Christ!

Discussion Questions:

- The disciples went from hiding in a locked room to bravely giving their lives for Jesus. What do you think made them suddenly so courageous?
- When Rasalama was being led to her execution, what did she do instead of cry?
- Since most of us have freedom, how can we show God that we truly treasure His Word today?

Activity:

Turn off all the lights in the room so it is pitch-black! Give the children a small flashlight and a Bible. Have them build a quick "cave" using blankets and chairs, then crawl inside to read a verse together using only the flashlight. Explain that thousands of Christians around the world still have to hide in secret places just to read God's Word without getting arrested!