**Rock City Church Unoffendables**

**Curriculum**

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**Mad at Dad: When Fathers Upset Us**

**1 Samuel 24:11**

**GODS GENERALS FALL LESSON 4**

**AGE: ELEMENTARY 9-11 YEAR OLDS**

***Adopted From Bait of Satan by John Bevere***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lesson Topic:**  How do you stay respectful to father figures when they reject you? David was anointed to be king while Saul was still the reigning king. Saul was angry with David, yet David honored the king and did not harm him when he had the chance. | | | |
| **LESSON** | **WHAT CHILDREN DO** | **SUPPLIES** | **PREPARATION** |
| **1**  **Getting Started** | **Introduction/Ice Breaker:**  **“Two Truths and a Lie”**  Children listen to three stories told by their classmate(s), then try to figure out which one is the lie. | Pencils/pens  Paper/ Post-it notes | Teachers gather supplies prior to class. |
| **2**  **Bible Exploration.**  **Key Verse Activity** | Key Verse: **1 Samuel 24:11**  Bible Story: Children explore how David was able to avoid taking revenge, even though Saul tried to kill him. |  |  |
| **Bible Activity: “The Right Way”.**  Children will divide into the same groups from the “Act it Out” portion of the lesson, and record how they can make right decisions when faced with the opportunity to take revenge. | Sheets of paper with “revenge” scenarios from “Act it Out” activity. | Teacher provides and distributes scenarios from the “Act it Out” portion of the lesson. |
| **“Act it Out”**  Children break into groups, and designate one person to record scenarios where they are tempted to take revenge. | Pencils/Pens  Paper |  |
| **LESSON** | **WHAT CHILDREN DO** | **SUPPLIES**  **NEEDED** | **PREPARATION OVERVIEW** |
| **3**  **Weaving Faith**  **Into Life** | **Craft/Make and Take:**  **“Rock of the Wild Goats”**  Using construction paper and fabric, children create a cave, with a picture of David, holding a piece of fabric, and write short sentences telling the story of how David spared Saul. | 9" x 12" brown construction paper  4" x 6" black construction paper  3" x 3" white paper  piece of fabric  Marker  Crayons  Scissors  glue | Teachers obtain all materials prior to class. |
| **Object Lesson/Activity:**  See the Bible Activity -  **“The Right Way”** |  |  |
| **Additional Activity:**  n/a |  |  |
|  | **Daily Challenges:**  Children refer to the sentence stories recorded on their “rock of Wild Goats”, to be reminded of how David spared Saul, even though Saul tried to kill him. | Completed craft for children to take home - “Rock of Wild Goats”. |  |
| **4**  **Lasting Impressions** | **Prayer Points:**  Children ask God to help them honor those in authority over them (parents, teachers, Pastors, etc.), pray for their leaders, and help them to keep their hearts clean if their leaders mistreat or disappoint them. |  |  |
|  | **Faith at Home:**  Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.  Children refer to the sentence story they created on the “Rock of Wild Goats” to remind themselves of how God is always there to help them avoid taking revenge when they are hurt by someone in authority. |  | **What parents can do at home:**  Parents can pray with the children, help them to make the right decisions and avoid taking revenge. |

**Lesson Topic**:

**Lesson Background/Foundation for Teachers**:

[(Adapted from “Revenge” lesson, Ministrytochildren.com)](https://ministry-to-children.com/free-preteen-bible-lesson-on-revenge/)

After the battle with Goliath, Saul kept David in his service. After the last Philistine had fallen, the Israelite men returned home from battle. The women were so happy that their husbands and sons were finally home, that they danced and sang praises. They sang, “Saul has killed thousands of men. David has killed tens of thousands.” The whole town was saying that David was a greater warrior than Saul. This must have made Saul feel very jealous and angry. In I Samuel 18:9, the Bible says, Saul said to himself, "They are saying David has killed tens of thousands of men. But they are saying I've killed only thousands. The only thing left for him to get is the kingdom itself."

Saul knew that the Lord had left him, as was with David (1 Samuel 18:12). Saul began to be tormented by an evil spirit that made him very upset. In the past, David had been able to soothe Saul with his music during these times of torment. But this time, Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at David, but David was able to get away.

David was in a difficult situation. Saul was trying to get rid him, because he was afraid he would take over the throne. Hoping that he would be killed in battle, Saul sent David away, making him the commander of 1,000 men. But the soldiers loved being commanded by David, and this made Saul even angrier.

Eventually, Saul and 3,000 men began hunting for David. Saul and his men took a break during their hunt, right outside of the same cave David was hiding in. Saul walked in to the cave to “relieve himself”, and didn’t know that David was inside. David could have decided to kill Saul, and end all of his troubles! Instead, David cut off a piece of his coat, then hid until Saul left. David came out of hiding to talk to Saul. He says in I Samuel 24:10-11:

10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’

11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

Saul had done many evil things to David, so David could have felt he had permission to take revenge on Saul and end his life in the cave. David’s “mighty men” even tried to persuade him to take action against Saul. Instead, God gave David understanding that as king, Saul was anointed by God, and that killing Him would be an evil act. Fathers, Pastors, and other leaders in our lives are not perfect. Sometimes, they don’t make the right choice. We must pray for the ability to honor those God puts in authority over us, and to trust that even if we are treated unfairly, God has the final say in our lives.

**Introduction Activity**

**Supplies Needed**: **“Two Truths and a Lie”**

**Directions**:

Ask your students to write down three sentences about their summer vacations, or about themselves. Two of the sentences should be true and one should be a lie.

Next, have your class sit in a circle. Select several students (or all of them if time permits) to share their three sentences. The rest of the students takes turns guessing which sentence is the lie. NOTE: Students can try to “throw off” the class if they make the truths less elaborate than the lie.

**Praise & Worship**:

* Song 1: “Forever”, by Chris Tomlin
* Song 2: “Whom Shall I Fear?” by Chris Tomlin

**Key Verse**: I Samuel 24:11

**Bible Story**:

* **Scripture Reference:**

1 Samuel 24:11 11See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

* **Narrative of Story:**  Select a student to read the scripture, then go over the lesson points and questions below.

**LESSON POINTS:**  
  
**(**[**Adapted from Children’s Bible Lessons – “David Spares King Saul’s Life”)**](http://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2014/07/lesson-david-spares-king-sauls-life.html?m=1)

* When King Saul came back from following the Philistines, he was told David was hiding in the wilderness.
* Saul set out with 3,000 chosen men of Israel to search for David and his men
* Saul needed to rest and chose a nearby cave
* He did not know that David and some of his men were in that very same cave!
* David's men tempted him to take revenge on Saul.
* David got up and cut off the edge of King Saul's robe,
* David felt bad about what he had done, because he knew Saul was the LORD's anointed.
* David called out to Saul, showed him the piece of his robe he cut
* David told the king that he had the opportunity to kill him, but chose not to because he was the LORD's anointed.

Ask the children the following questions:

1) How do you think David felt when King Saul was chasing after him?

2) Why did David spare his life?

3) What can we learn from David’s decision?

**Bible Activity**: “The Right Way”

[(adapted from: “Revenge” Bible Lesson, MinistrytoChildren.com)](https://ministry-to-children.com/free-preteen-bible-lesson-on-revenge/)

Ask the children the question, “When Are You Most Tempted to Seek Revenge?” Then, have the children divide up into small groups, have with a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil. Have the children designate one student to records their answers.

Have the groups write down three-five situations when they are most tempted to try to get even. Then, have them give a response that shows a better way to respond to the situation, and then have each group pick one person to share with the group.

**Game/Object Lesson: See the Bible Activity - “The Right Way”**

**Craft/Make & Take:**

Title: “**Rock of the Wild Goats”**  

### **Supplies Needed:** 9" x 12" brown construction paper, 4" x 6" black construction paper, 3" x 3" white paper, piece of fabric, marker, crayons, scissors, glue.

**Directions:**

1. Hand out brown paper.
2. Cut top edge of brown paper to resemble huge boulders. This is the outside of the cave.
3. Draw good-sized rocks on brown paper. See picture above.
4. Pass out black paper.
5. Round the tops of two corners. The is the mouth of the cave.
6. Glue mouth of cave on rocks.
7. Hand out white paper.
8. Draw David holding one arm up.
9. Cut out David.
10. Glue David to the mouth of the cave.
11. Glue small piece of fabric in David's held-up hand.
12. Write one sentence in each rock.

**Additional Activity: N/A**

* **Title**:
* **Supplies Needed**:
* **Directions**:

**Closing Activity & Prayer:**

* Call to Action: Revenge is not self-defense. It is a planned attack to re-pay someone for a wrong they have done to you, or to someone close to you. **Romans 12:19** says:

*Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Prayer: God, help me to honor those in authority over me (parents, teachers, Pastors, etc.), and always pray for my leaders, even when they make a mistake or disappoint me.

**Faith At Home:**

* Description: **“Rock of Wild Goats” Take Home**
* Challenge: Encourage children to apply the story of how Saul as spared, even though he was jealous enough to try to kill David in situations where leaders don’t “get it right”.