

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 21-27, 2023
"REPAYING GOOD FOR EVIL"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is a funny or embarrassing example of unintended consequences that you've experienced or witnessed?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-15

1. Which of the characters (i.e. David, Saul, David's men) can you relate to in this passage? In what way?
2. What thoughts and emotions do you think David experienced when he had the opportunity to kill Saul but chose not to? Why do you think David felt guilty about cutting off Saul's robe when he did not harm Saul? What do his actions say about his character and his trust in God?
3. What does it mean for David to call Saul "my lord and king"? Why do you think David has such a high regard for King Saul despite the fact that Saul wanted him dead?
4. Read Romans 12:17-21. In what ways does the instruction to leave vengeance to God challenge the prevailing cultural norms and expectations? In what ways do these verses redefine the concept of justice and revenge from a worldly perspective? What are the challenges or obstacles in living out these principles?
5. Is there someone in your life who has treated you poorly or caused you harm? How can you choose to respond with kindness and goodness towards them? Why is it important for a believer to trust in God's vengeance? What does one do to surrender the desire for revenge to God and choose forgiveness?
6. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have done nothing (in the face of being wronged) yet building resentment and bitterness in your heart. What steps can you take to address and resolve these emotions and mindset?

7. Share a time when you chose to take the high road, despite the temptation to take a different path. How did that decision impact you personally and the people around you who witnessed your response?

8. NEXT STEPS

When it comes to revenge, God is much better at it than we are.

- I refuse to take revenge.
- I will always entrust vengeance to the Lord.
- I will repay good for evil.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that God will grow you in the aspect of repaying good for evil.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

May 22 1 Peter 3:18-14

May 23 Matthew 5:43-48

May 24 Deuteronomy 32:44-52

May 25 1 Samuel 25

May 26 1 Samuel 26

May 27 Romans 14:1-12

May 28 1 Timothy 4:9-16