

**Knights of the Rectangle
Lesson Outline
Episode 4**

Passage 1 Samuel 24

LEARN IT

Inside of you there is a side that wants to do evil, which is not what God wants you to do. It's a battle between God leading you or *you* leading you. Every choice you face, every moment, every day is a battle between two forces in your heart. (Galatians 5:17-18)

LINK IT

You're either filled with God's spirit or filled with yourself. And the "you" in you will strike back, but God's spirit *in* you will return kindness for evil. It all depends on which one of those is living large inside you. If you've been growing a heart after God, then his spirit will help you to resist revenge.

COMPASS POINT

"Don't go and do what 'that side of you' is telling you."

LIVE IT

David kept his heart focused on God all the time. He wanted to love God more. He wanted to obey God. He wanted to give God his all. When you give God your all, He gives Himself back to you. Often though, we don't experience what life with God is like because we don't give Him everything—all of us.

David had given himself completely to God, and because of that, he was able to see Saul through God's eyes, with love, forgiveness and most of all mercy.

MEMORY MAX

**Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.
James 4:8a**

Knights of the Rectangle

Lesson #4

A Good Knight is MERCIFUL

The purpose of this lesson plan is to:

- Create a fun and interactive learning experience
- Provide teaching options in addition to the Leader Q Card
- Creatively revisit the Bible story featured in the teaching video
- Give kids an opportunity to further explore the application point

PROGRAM

Activity	Length of Segment	Running Time
Q Card: Discussion	15 minutes	Start-15 minutes
Picture: Bible Story	5 minutes	15-20 minutes
Play: Learning Activity	10 minutes	20-30 minutes
Plan: Group Commitment	5 minutes	30-35 minutes
Prayer: Prayer Cards	5 minutes	35-45 minutes

PREP

You will need:

- Story Props (optional)
- Prayer Cards (1 per kid)
- MAP Books (1 per kid)

PICTURE

(The Bible Story)

In this portion of your class time you have the opportunity to retell the Bible story presented earlier in the teaching video. The object is to paint a picture that kids will understand and remember. When telling the story, remember you are painting a picture for your viewers. Have fun and explore your creativity. Here are some ideas to make your storytelling more memorable:

- Try asking kids to act out the story as you read it aloud
- You might want to use pictures or props for: rocks, goats, cave, David's robe, piece of cloth
- The characters in the story are: Saul and his troops, David and his men

David Shows Mercy to Saul

1 Samuel 24:1-15

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. So Saul chose three thousand special troops from throughout Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a

cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding in that very cave!

"Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today is the day the Lord was talking about when he said, 'I will certainly put Saul into your power, to do with as you wish.' " Then David crept forward and cut off a piece of Saul's robe.

But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. "The Lord knows I shouldn't have done it," he said to his men. "It is a serious thing to attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." So David sharply rebuked his men and did not let them kill Saul.

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. Then he shouted to Saul, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave, and some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm him--he is the Lord's anointed one.' Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me. The Lord will decide between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. As that old proverb says, 'From evil people come evil deeds.' So you can be sure I will never harm you. Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a flea? May the Lord judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

PLAY

(Learning Activity)

In this portion of your class time you will lead your class in a fun and exciting activity that will help your kids apply the Bible lesson to their everyday lives.

"FREEZE"

HOW TO PLAY:

- **Say, "This activity is called FREEZE. This activity will help us to think about what it looks like to hold back revenge and show mercy."**
- **Choose kids to act out situation #1 (see below)**
- **Read the situation aloud as the kids act it out**
- **When you come to the word FREEZE, ask all the kids the freeze questions and then continue the story**
- **Choose kids to act out situation #2**
- **Repeat all steps for situation #2 and situation #3**

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- **Invite 2 or 3 kids to create and act out their own situation as a group**

SITUATION #1

Characters: John and Mark

John and Mark are playing soccer on the playground at school. They are on the same team. John has the ball. Mark is open. He waves his hands crazily in the air and yells, "John, I'm open. Pass it. John, I'm OOPPEEEEN!" John has 3 guys on him. He darts, he dribbles, and he loses the ball for the third time in a row.

FREEZE: Who do you think is frustrated in this situation? Why? Have you ever been in a situation like this before? What did you do?

Mark is very, very frustrated, but he wants to be patient with John. Mark goes up to John and says, "Why don't you ever pass to me? I'm open all the time." Then John looks at him and says, "Why should I pass it to you? I'm better than you anyway."

FREEZE: What do you think Mark feels like doing right now? What would it look like if he holds it back and shows mercy to John? What are his choices?

SITUATION #2

Characters: Sarah and Beth

Beth is Sarah's little sister. Beth is very energetic and happy all the time. She loves to bounce around the house singing and dancing and blowing bubbles. Sarah likes to be more quiet. She likes to read and listen to music and talk on the phone with her friends. One day Sarah was quietly reading on the couch when her friend called. Beth answered the phone, and when the friend asked for Sarah, Beth told her that Sarah was not home.

FREEZE: Who do you think was frustrated in this situation? Why? Have you ever been in a situation like this before? What did you do?

Well, a couple of minutes later, Sarah's friend called back. This time Sarah wrestled the phone away from her little sister. Sarah was finally on the phone. She stretched out on the couch and started a long, deep conversation with her friend.

Meanwhile, Beth had put on her rollerblades. She was rolling by Sarah every 3 seconds, laughing and yelling, "Hi Sarah, Hi Sarah, Hi Sarah" over and over again. Sarah was trying to ignore her by continuing her conversation when Beth tripped over the phone cord, pulled the cord out of the phone, ran over Sarah's foot and spilled her drink all over Sarah's homework.

FREEZE: What do you think Sarah felt like doing now? What would it have looked like if she had held it back and shown mercy to Beth? What were her choices?

Situation #3

Characters: Jordan and 2 friends

The long, long, hot, tiring school day had just finally ended. Jordan jumped out of his/her seat and ran to collect his/her backpack. "Yes! Finally! The weekend is here!" he said dashing through the halls toward the front of the school. Jordan sat under the big tree with a few friends waiting expectantly. After a few minutes, he started to anxiously mumble to himself, "Where's my mom? She's always late. Why can't she just be on time for once?"

FREEZE: Why was Jordan frustrated? Have you ever been in a situation like this before? What did you do?

The line of cars streamed through the parking lot like a snake. Jordan kept peeking around the big vans to see who was coming next. One by one he watched in defeat as each of his friends waved goodbye. "Great! She's ruined another Friday", he said to himself. Time passed slowly. Jordan sat, and sat, and sat until he was the very, very, very last person left under the tree. Finally, after many minutes of torture had passed, he saw a glimmer of hope in the distance. There it was. He could just see his car a couple of blocks away coming toward the school. "It's my mom - FINALLY!"

FREEZE: What do you think Jordan felt like doing or saying? What would it have looked like if he/she had held it back and shown mercy to his/her mom? What were his/her choices?

PLAN

(Group Commitment)

In this portion of your class time you have the opportunity to lead your group to make a commitment. You may select any ONE of the options provided or your group may create its own. Encourage the kids to write their commitments on their Prayer Cards so you can be praying for them during the week.

Commitment Options:

- **When you feel angry or frustrated at someone this week, find a quiet place to pray and ask God to help you show mercy**
- **Make a list of the people who have hurt you or made you angry. Ask God to help you forgive them for the things that they have done to you.**
- **Draw a picture of a cross and write "mercy" under it. Hang it up in your house. When you look at the picture, remember that God showed mercy to us by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.**

PRAYER

In this portion of your class time, have your kids fill out the Prayer Card. Take the cards home and pray for your kids throughout the week. End your time together by praying for your group commitment.

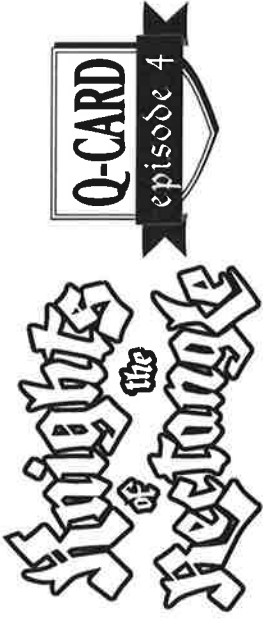
Hand out prayer cards

- **Ask kids to fill in their commitments in the space provided**
- **Ask kids to fill in their prayer requests in the space provided**
- **Collect cards so you can take them home and pray for your kids**
- **Close in prayer**

God, thank you for always showing mercy to us. You forgive all our sins even though we do not deserve it. Help us to be merciful to everyone around us. We ask that the Holy Spirit would change our hearts so that we will be able to show mercy. Help us to remember to find a quiet place to pray and ask you for help when we are angry. Help us to do the things we have committed to do this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Remember to...

- **Hand out the MAP Books**
- **Encourage kids to complete at home with an adult and bring back next week!**



What makes you angry?

Describe to your group a time you were angry. How did you respond? What were the consequences?

Ask the kids, "Have you ever gotten mad and as a result gotten in trouble?"

Have someone look up **Galatians 5:17-18** and read it out loud to your group. Talk about the two sides that are at war.



What makes it so difficult NOT to strike back or get even?

Mercy flows out of our hearts because of what God does in our lives. When we allow God to work, we have more mercy available when situations call for revenge.

Put hand motions to today's **Compass Point**: "Don't go and do what 'that side of you' is telling you."



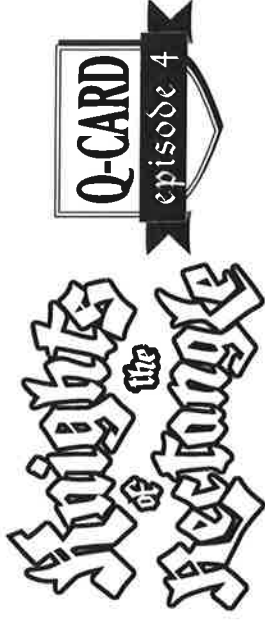
Does being angry keep us from having a heart after God?

As a group, brainstorm behaviors that make us want to fight back or get even. Think of situations you face every day. List them on a piece of paper.

Talk about each situation and answer the question, "What would **MERCY** look like in this situation?"

With your group, create a one sentence prayer that reflects a "heart after God." In the prayer, include the desire to show mercy instead of revenge. Commit as a group to pray the prayer each day this week. Report back next week with stories of what God has done.

Pass out the prayer cards and ask your group to write down the commitment they made so you can pray for them this week.



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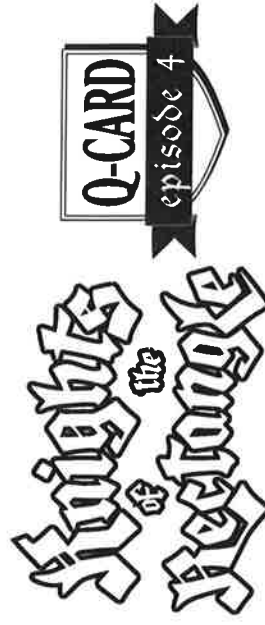
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EPISODE 4

LEADER PRAYER GUIDE

- Hand out prayer cards
- Explain to kids that you will be praying for their requests throughout the week
- Ask kids to write their prayer requests
- Collect cards and take them home to pray for your kids
- Close in prayer

God, thank You for always showing mercy to us. You forgive all our sins even though we do not deserve it. Help us to be merciful to everyone around us. We ask that the Holy Spirit would change our hearts so that we will be able to show mercy. Help us to remember to find a quiet place to pray and ask You for help when we are angry. Help us to do the things we have committed to do this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- Hand out the **MAP Books** and remind kids to complete them and bring them back next week

Praying for your kids each week is a valuable commitment. It is important to be respectful of kids' privacy, but also put the cards in a place where you will remember to pray daily. They can be kept with your daily devotional materials, hung on a bulletin board, or even folded inside out and propped up in a place where you will see them frequently.



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Your **MISSION** this week is: to measure your **MERCY**.

Each day, think back through the moments when someone didn't treat you well or you felt like getting even. Mark on the Mercy Meter how you responded by filling in the arrows with your pencil or pen. The more mindful we are of God's mercy in tough situations, the more likely we are to be merciful rather than seeking revenge.



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday

After you've reflected on the day's events, spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to grow your heart for him.

PRAYER:

"God be in me what you want me to be. Calm my heart. Calm my mind. Help me to show mercy instead of anger."

"Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you."

—James 4:8a

YES, I,

your name here

Parent's Signature

have completed this week's M.A.P. book!

KIDMO™ MAP BOOK
MISSION ACTION PLAN

Knights of Rectitude



episode 4

Point of View

We Hereby Decree:

Mercy is holding back revenge when someone deserves it. Using the facts of today's Bible story, fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle below.

1 Across: The Bible describes David as a man after God's own _____.

2 Across: The name of the place where David and his men were hiding _____.

3 Across: Where was Saul when David could have killed him? _____.

1 Down: Even though he had the chance, David refused to take _____.

2 Down: Because his eyes and heart were correctly focused, this person did the right thing even when it wasn't easy. _____.

3 Down: His jealousy changed him from a good king to a bad leader. _____.

Point of View

Draw a line from the situation to what would be a normal response.

Getting picked on

Having something taken from you

Not being treated fairly

Not getting your way

Harsh words

Pushed to the side

Get Even	Show Mercy
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What is the final score?
What response won?

COMPASS POINT

Don't go and _____
what "that side of you" is telling _____.

What words or phrases fit the best?

- chew
- sew
- glue
- zoo
- throw
- your shoe
- do
- your mother
- kangaroo
- Peru
- canoe
- You

