

Don't Take Revenge



Memory Verse

Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay says the Lord. - Romans 12:19

Has someone, maybe even a friend, ever treated you so unkindly or unfairly that all you could think about was doing something nasty back to that person? This is the way of our sinful human nature. However, God's way is very different from man's way.

When we take such a situation into our own hands and retaliate, we are not allowing God to handle the injustice. Notice God's words in our memory verse, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay." God is the one whose job it is to take care of the offending person. When we take revenge into our own hands, we are not allowing God to work in the situation. God desires peace and harmony in relationships. He wants to work to bring about justice in the best way. When we choose to forgive, we are cooperating with God so peace and harmony can be restored.

A Friendship Mended

Alex was telling Mom how his friend, Mike, had accidentally stepped on his new remote control car. "He said he was sorry that he'd pay to have it fixed, but I don't think it even **can** be fixed," said Alex, holding out the mangled pieces for Mom to see. "I'm not sure he's my friend anymore either."

"Now tell me... what kind of friend is Mike?"

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"He was my best friend," mumbled Alex.

Mom nodded. "Something unpleasant like you experienced can ruin a friendship, even between best friends. Mike did his part when he told you he was sorry and offered to pay to have your car fixed."

"But I got this car for my birthday just last week!" exclaimed Alex.

"With a situation such as this," said Mom, "you're going to have to decide which is more important to you: a toy car or a best friend."

Alex was quiet for a while. "Okay," he mumbled at last, "I'll forgive him, but he should be more careful."

Mom looked serious, "**How** will you forgive him?" she asked. "I know you've learned verses about the **way** God wants us to forgive. Do you remember what He says?"

"Well, He says the way Jesus forgave is the way we also..." Alex stopped and was quiet. Then, he looked up at Mom. "How long until supper?" he asked.

"You have time to go see Mike and mend a friendship," Mom smiled.

"Good! Thanks, Mom!" And Alex dashed out the door, smiling expectantly.

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Lesson Activity

In the puzzle below, find the word that does **not** belong in each numbered set. Write it on the blank with the same number. You'll find an important message about forgiveness.

2 milk glass Bible	10 Jesus evil bad	18 boy strings girl	6 hate forgive dislike	1,7 book the read	15 completely telephone ringing	9 way clouds rain	13 bath wash that	11 tea coffee does
3 says clouds rain	8 black white same	5 bicycle scooter to	16 spoon with fork	14 pen pencil is	19 picnic ants attached	12 brush comb and	17 grass no green	4 we're eyes nose

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	10	11		12	13	14	15
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	16	17		18		19	