

3/18/18 | RISE ABOVE: Revenge

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

—Genesis 50:20a | NIV



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you react when another driver cuts you off? Can people take revenge with driving? What does that look like?
2. When have you been tempted to take revenge (whether driving or not)? What happened? What did you do? Did it make you feel better?
3. Consider this quote. Why do people think this way? What problems are caused by this sort of thinking?

"I'm a fighter. I believe in the eye-for-an-eye business. I'm no cheek turner. I got no respect for a man who won't hit back. You kill my dog, you better hide your cat."

—Muhammad Ali

Power of Kindness

4. Read Romans 12:14,19-21. What do these verses command us to do instead of taking revenge? Why? Does this mean the wicked should go through life unpunished?
5. Read Romans 2:4. What does this verse say about God's kindness? How does that inspire you to be more kind? What can kindness ultimately accomplish?
6. What does Ephesians 2:6-7 say about God's kindness toward us? How do you react to that?
7. Are we always supposed to be kind? How can we know? When is it hardest for you to be kind?

Treatment of Enemies

8. Read Matthew 5:38-47 and Luke 6:27-35. Which command is the hardest to follow? Why are we told to love our enemies?

9. Think about a specific person/organization in your life that you struggle to get along with. Now read Luke 6:27-35 again, imagining that the verses are directly talking about that person.

10. What are the verses saying about how to treat our enemies? Does this extend to everyone who mistreats Christians? Are these just ideals, or did Jesus mean them practically? In other words, does Jesus just expect His followers to be doormats and trod on by every passerby? How do you know?

11. Between discussing kindness and how to treat enemies, what have you concluded about revenge? How will you handle the situation next time you want to take revenge?

TAKE AWAY: Release (forgive) and receive (God's redemption).