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More Secrets of the Kingdom

Key References: Matthew 5:21-26, 33-48; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 31, pp. 310-314; *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, chap. 3, pp. 55-58, 66-78; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 62-65; Our Beliefs nos. 14, 12, 22



powertext

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Have you ever heard a sermon so radical that it made you want to change right away, but it made other people angry? Many in Jesus' audience had that experience as He finished telling them about the invisible kingdom. Imagine again one of the boys your age who was there.

The boy watched the Pharisees as Jesus talked. They listened with stony faces. *I guess they don't agree with what He's saying*, he thought.

That day the boy heard so many great things. He learned from Jesus that as a true child of the heavenly Father, he needed to treat friends and strangers with love and compassion. Even when he didn't feel like it, God would enable him to love others.

The boy thought about the beggar boys in the marketplace. Their clothes were ragged and dirty. He felt uncomfortable around them and tried to avoid them. *Maybe I can help them somehow*, he thought.



Because God loves us, we are able to love our friends and our enemies.

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Sunday

READ Read Matthew 5:21, 22 and “More Secrets of the Kingdom.”

THINK What are some ways you can live in unity at home and at school?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for the way He loves and cares for you.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 5:23–26.

THINK Why is it important how we treat others?

PLAN In your Bible study journal, list things you can do to overcome anger (take a walk, count to 10, etc.).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God’s forgiveness for the last time you acted out of anger at someone.

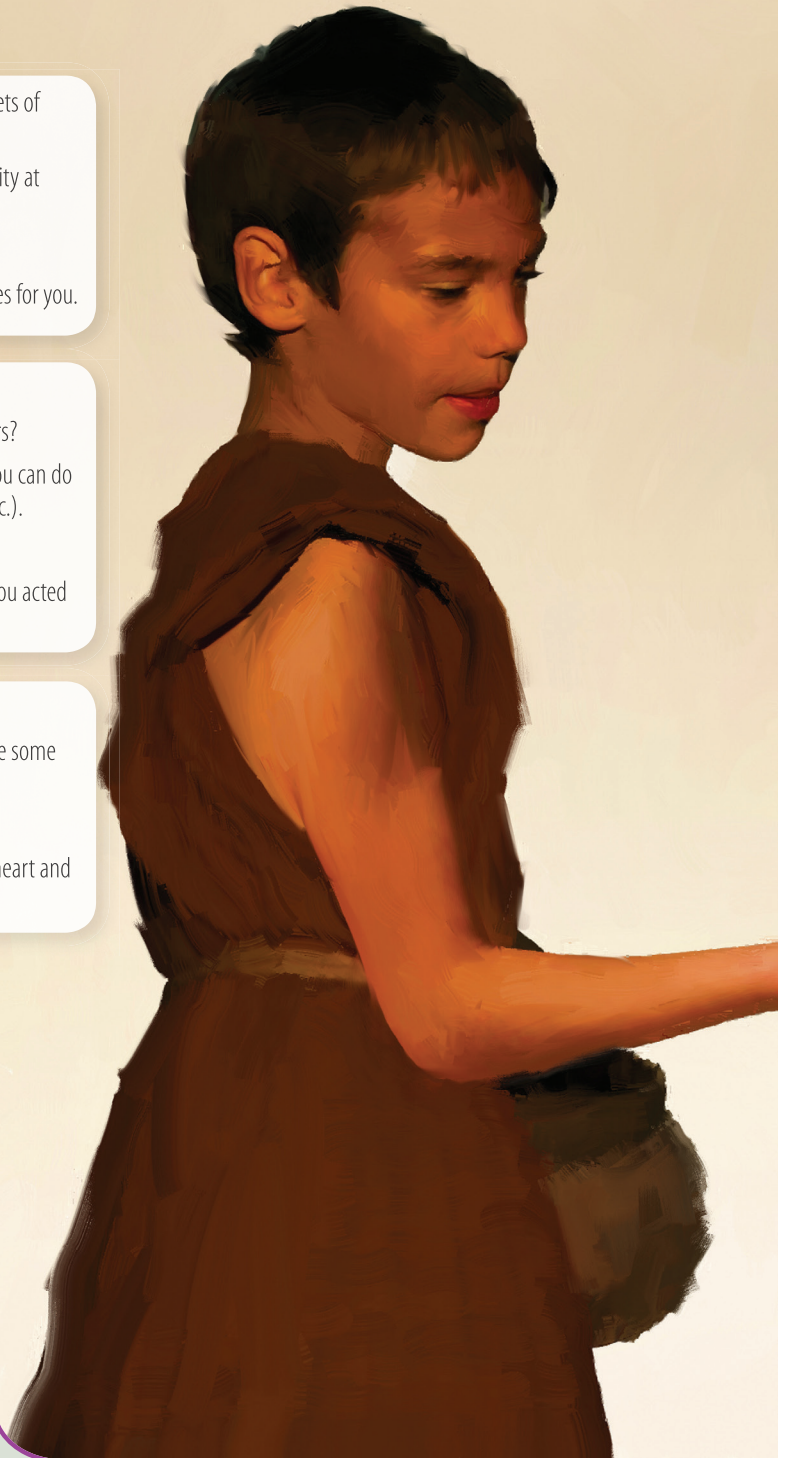
Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 5:27–32.

THINK According to Philippians 4:6–8 what are some ways you can keep your thoughts pure?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask for the peace of God to guard your heart and your mind.



Jesus continued talking about how a person's actions tell others much about the condition of the heart. "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment" (Matthew 5:21).

The crowd listened closely as Jesus explained what He meant. The Pharisees' stony expressions turned to frowns.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift" (verses 23, 24).

The boy thought about the argument he'd had with his friend. He hadn't felt much like talking to God, either. Later when they settled the issue, he didn't have that empty feeling anymore.

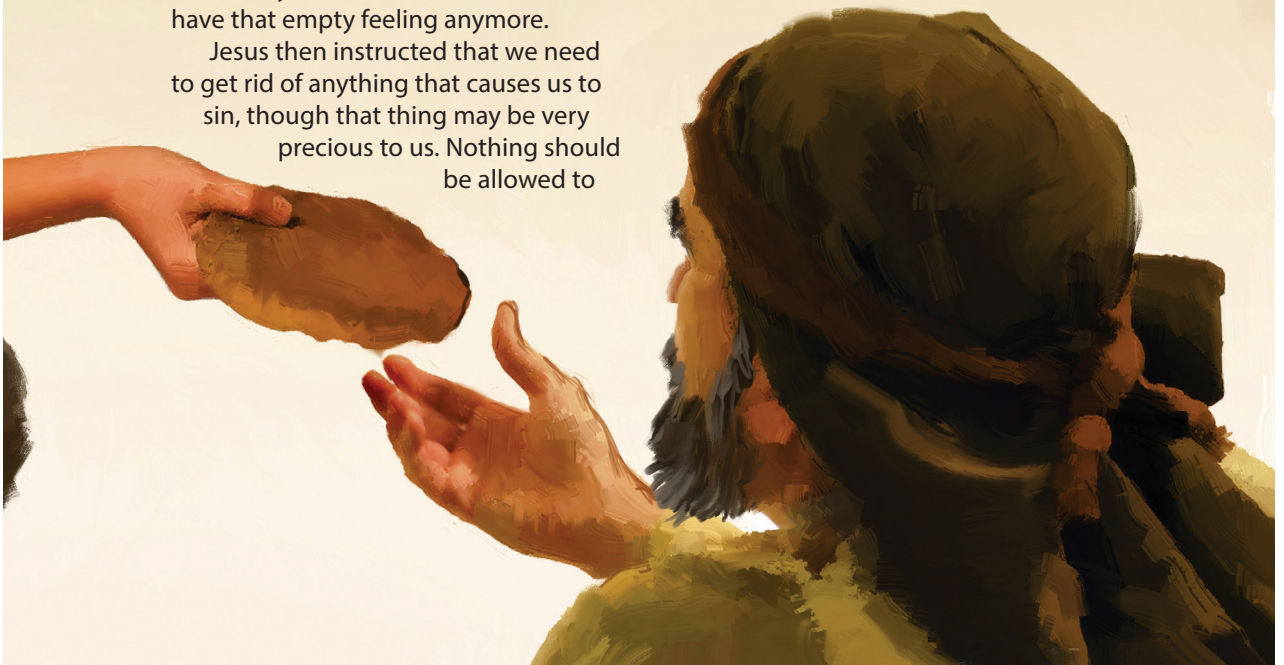
Jesus then instructed that we need to get rid of anything that causes us to sin, though that thing may be very precious to us. Nothing should be allowed to

interfere with God's plan for our life.

Looking at his father, the boy thought, *He chose to quit doing certain things he said were keeping him away from God.*

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy,'" Jesus continued. "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. . . . Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (verses 43-48).

The boy glanced at Mother. Sometimes she would take food to a woman whose husband had died. Other times she provided clothes for people who had lost everything when their house burned down. It never mattered to her whether



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Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 5:33–37.

THINK Have you ever made a promise that you were unable to keep? Has someone done the same to you? How did you feel in both situations?

ASK Ask an adult to share what helped him/her keep the promises made to God and others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you keep your promises.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 5:38–42.

THINK What is verse 41 saying? What are ways you can go the extra mile for someone?

DO Give more and go further for a friend today.

REMEMBER Because God loves us, we are able to love our friends and our enemies.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the grace to love your friends and your enemies.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 5:43–48.

THINK According to this passage, what is the mark of a true Christian?

ACT List or draw three kind things that you can do to show love to a person who treats you like an “enemy.” Do those things in the next few days.

SAY Tell your family the power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to give you the grace and power to make peace with your “enemy.”

she knew the people.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them,” Jesus warned. “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:1, 3, 4).

He thought about his mother’s actions. She never made a big deal about what she was doing for others.

That’s a lot different than other people I’ve seen, he thought. *The Pharisees always make such a commotion.*

The boy reflected on Jesus’ teaching. Now he understood that as a child of the heavenly Father, he must show those who don’t know Him what being Jesus’ follower truly means. If people would see him treating others with love and respect, they might ask questions about why he acted that way. Then he could tell them about God and what He has done in his life. But if he was careless in his actions, then he would not be a mirror of God’s love. Those who don’t know Jesus wouldn’t recognize anything different in his life. Then he would lose the chance to tell them about God and what He has done for him.

Later the boy said to his parents, “Jesus said so many things today. I don’t know how I can do everything He said.”

“Remember, you can’t do any of it on your own,” Father reminded him. “God gives you the power.”

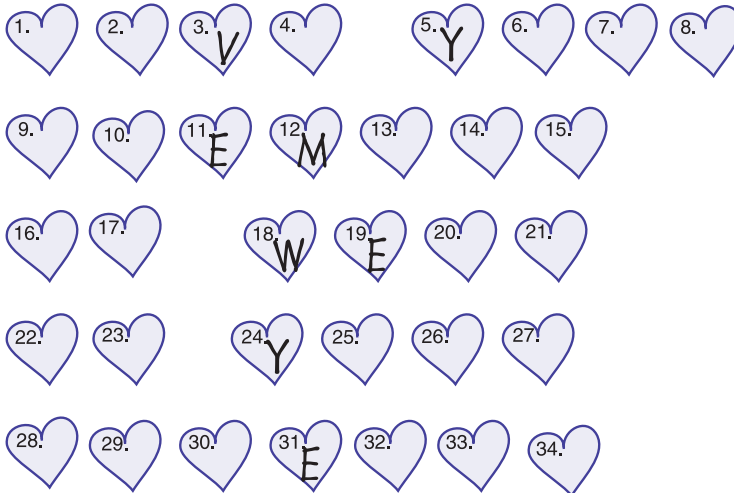
The boy’s face lit with a beaming smile. “I like that idea!” he said.



HEART TO HEART

Instructions: Each answer is the name of a person who was either friend or foe of the person in the clue. Write the names of the people on the lines and then transfer the corresponding letters to their matching hearts. When you are finished, you will reveal a secret message.

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|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Loyal friend of David | _____ 25 _____ 16 _____ 32 |
| 2. Giant foe of David | _____ 2 _____ 1 _____ 30 _____ |
| 3. She treated Hagar cruelly | 34 _____ 29 _____ 22 _____ |
| 4. He told Hagar to return | _____ 10 _____ 14 _____ 20 _____ |
| 5. Friend and successor to Moses | _____ 6 _____ 26 _____ |
| 6. Brother of Moses who rebelled against him | _____ 27 _____ |
| 7. Physician companion of Paul | 21 _____ 7 _____ 4 _____ |
| 8. Paul testified before him | 28 _____ 9 _____ 23 _____ |
| 9. Friend and companion of Daniel | 17 _____ 8 _____ |
| 10. King who ordered Daniel placed in lions' den | 33 _____ 13 _____ 15 _____ |



Hint Box

Aaron	Angel	Darius	Festus	Goliath
Jonathan	Joshua	Luke	Sarah	Shadrach