

# 10 LESSONS FOR A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

## LESSON 6 // RESIST REVENGE

**Big Idea:** A life of significance involves dealing with difficulties and disappointments in relationships and handling the temptation to seek revenge.

It's important to remember that life isn't always fair and people aren't always nice. You must be able to rise above the unfair situations and nasty people you will encounter, as David did when Saul was trying to take his life (1 Samuel 24:1-7).

You also need to realize that getting even with someone who hurt you is a very unhealthy way to live. Instead God can empower you to respond in a healthy and holy way by choosing to extend grace, forgive and do good to the person who hurt you (when possible and appropriate), trusting God's justice instead of your revenge.

**Romans 12:17-21 (TPT)** *Never hold a grudge or try to get even, but plan your life around the noblest way to benefit others. <sup>18</sup> Do your best to live as everybody's friend. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, don't be obsessed with taking revenge, but leave that to God's righteous justice. For the Scriptures say: "If you don't take justice in your own hands, I will release justice for you," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> And: If your enemy is hungry, buy him lunch! Win him over with kindness. For your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience, and God will reward you with favor. <sup>21</sup> Never let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good.*

### Discussion Questions:

This weekend we learned that to live a life of significance we have to deal with difficulties and disappointments in relationships and handle the temptation to seek revenge well. What part of the message spoke to you the most and why?

Have you ever had a day where so many things went wrong that all you could do was laugh? What happened?

Why do you think that the idea of "get hurt and get even" is so popular? What are the pros and cons of that type of mindset?

**Read Mark 11:25.** To handle disappointments and difficulties well, we must forgive. What grudges are you having difficulty letting go? Why does the thought of forgiving others often provoke an emotional response?

What are some ways you can start embracing trials as opportunities to strengthen your faith?

**Read Psalm 103:10-12.** Why does God not give us what we deserve? Why does forgiveness matter so much to God?

**Prayer Focus:** God, thank you for giving grace and mercy, even when we don't deserve it. Help us, Lord, to extend the same grace and mercy to others. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Ask Your Group:** If you've been holding onto a grudge, spend time in prayer this week to ask God to free you from any bitterness and help you seek reconciliation.