

Garret Swish, the Parrotfish



Key Passage: 1 Samuel 24:1-22, David Spares Saul's Life

Lesson: The parrotfish got its name because of its beak-like mouth, but that doesn't stop Garret from copying what everyone else says and does. When King Saul went to David, David did not copy Saul's actions but instead showed kindness and mercy to the king.

Objective: Kids will learn God wants us to be loyal and true friends.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4XWFDUJ8-0>

David Spares Saul's Life

INTRO:

We are really diving deep into the sea and learning about being land dwellers after God's own heart! I've learned a lot about what it means to have a heart like God and I hope you have too. Today we're talking about being a copycat like Garret Swish the Parrotfish. Can anyone raise their hand and tell us one person in their life that they look up to? Who is someone that you think would be safe to imitate? Who is someone that sets a good example and lives like Jesus?

I'm so glad that some of you have a good example in your lives, but sometimes it can be difficult to discern who we can imitate. When everyone else fails to be a good example, we can always count on Jesus. When we look in the

Garret Swish, the Parrotfish

Bible, we can see how Jesus lived and treated others. He is the one that we should be mimicking! Jesus was kind, loving, showed mercy to others, was patient, spoke only the truth, and served others. He is the best example that we have!

Sometimes there is someone in our lives that we are very close to, but is not displaying the love of Jesus. It can be difficult to behave differently than they do. It can be challenging not to treat them the way they treat us. We are going to read about our friend David again; A LAND DWELLER AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART. Let's find out what he does when he's faced with a decision of treating someone the way they've been treating him or not.

READ 1 SAMUEL 24:1-22

MAIN POINT:

King Saul had been hunting David down ever since that land-dweller after God's own heart had fled from him. Saul was jealous of David and wanted him dead. This was because Saul knew God had decided that David would be the next King. Saul felt threatened and wanted to ensure that he would remain king and David would not take over. David had been hiding in a cave with the men who had pledged to protect him from King Saul. When Saul came to kill him, he did not see David hiding. David had the opportunity to kill Saul once and for all! He even cut the corner of his robe off. David realized that showing mercy and love to his enemy is what God was calling him to do. His choice was righteous and loving. God calls us to love even our enemies, and to show them kindness!

David was stronger and wiser than Saul. He had the advantage and could have gotten rid of him. After all, God had said that David would be the next King. Why didn't David just eliminate Saul when he had the chance and become king right away? David knew that God's timing was better than his own. He needed to trust God and wait for when it was time for him to be king! When he told Saul that he had the opportunity to kill him, but instead spared his life, Saul had a change of heart. He realized that David was not out to get him. He asked David to spare his family as well, for a secure future.

This land-dweller after God's own heart could have easily treated King Saul the way that he had been treated. He could have turned on Saul and killed him the way that Saul wanted David dead. David chose not to behave like Saul. He saw the error of Saul's ways and did not imitate him. King Saul was making unwise decisions. He was fueled by jealousy, not by love. He was filled with fear of losing his kingship, not by trust in the Lord. David could see that Saul was not a good influence or someone that he should copy. He chose a better way and did not follow in Saul's footsteps!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Who are we letting influence our lives? Whose footsteps are we following? There are those who have authority over us. There are kings, presidents, role models, teachers, parents, and more. God tells us to respect the authority that is over us. Sometimes people who are in charge don't make wise and good decisions. Even though we need to love and respect these people, it does not mean that we have to become like them. We always have a choice! God gave us freewill. Each day we choose how we are going to behave. Who do you want to copycat?

The best way to know who to look up to is by praying and asking God to give you wisdom and discernment. Measure how others behave up to what God's word says, so that you know if it is good or not. Jesus is the best example of who we should be like! We can always turn to him when we don't have a good influence in our lives. He is the way! So be careful who you imitate!

David chose to be different from Saul. Even though Saul treated him badly, David still showed Saul mercy and love. As we search for God's heart in the heart of the sea we will learn that God wants us to LOVE OUR ENEMIES AND SHOW THEM KINDNESS. This is what Jesus did on the cross for all of us. He forgives us and loves us even though we have made mistakes.

Parent/Child Chat: K - 2nd grade

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Who could have killed Saul?

Why did David spare King Saul?

Do you think it's difficult to love an enemy? Why?

Jesus loves his enemies and even died for them. Does his example make it easier for you to love yours?

Is there anyone in your life that you could forgive?

Parent/Child Chat: 3rd - 8th grade

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22

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Who had the advantage in this story?

Why did David spare King Saul?

Do you think it's difficult to love an enemy? Why?

Jesus loves his enemies and even died for them. Does his example make it easier for you to love yours?

How would it help Saul if he trusted God the way David did?

Is there anyone in your life that you could forgive?

PARENT TIME:

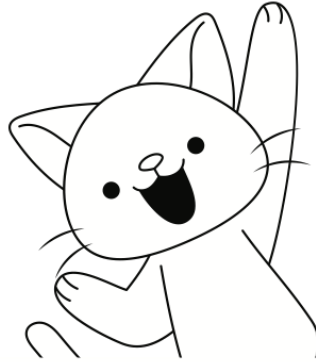
What you need to know:

It's not easy to love our enemies and show them kindness. We are able to do this because of the forgiveness that Jesus has given us. Ask God to reveal to you who in your life is treating you like an enemy and how you can resist the temptation to imitate your enemy, but instead imitate Jesus. Ask God to make you a good role model for your children so that they will see the love of Jesus in you and imitate you!

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have your child(ren) complete the copycat worksheet. Remind them to be careful who they copycat!

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COPY CAT

Be a copycat! Practice copying how Jesus lived! See how many tasks you can complete before you leave today. Take this home and finish completing the rest!

- 1. Say something kind to a friend.
- 2. Help clean up the room you are in.
- 3. Spend time having fun with friends.
- 4. Write a note to a family member that you haven't seen in a while and mail it to them.
- 5. Volunteer to carry someone's Bible, groceries, etc. to the car or house.
- 6. Share encouraging words with a friend.
- 7. Invite a friend or neighbor to have a meal with you.
- 8. Forgive someone when they make a mistake.
- 9. Be patient with a sibling or parent when they make you feel frustrated.
- 10. Offer to help your parent with a chore!
- 11. Volunteer to serve at the church.
- 12. Pray to God and ask Him to lead you in everything that you do.