

REVENGE: How sweet it isn't!

I. OPENER

Ape, Man, Girl Game

This is a variation of the Rock-Scissors-Paper game. Have people pair off. When the signal is given each person strikes a pose like an ape, man, or girl. Be sure to demonstrate what each looks like ahead of time. The ape beats the girl, man beats the ape, the girl gets the man. Eliminate the losers and pair the winners until you get a champion.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. STORY

Chris your average 15-year-old is normal in all respects, and seems to have his life under control except for in one area. In that area he has a problem with forgiving others, and is always out to fight anyone that does him harm. As a result Chris is often getting into fights at school, which has gotten him into allot of trouble there. Kids wish that Chris would learn to soften up, and not be so defensive.

STUDY

³⁸"Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth."

³⁹Is that going to get us anywhere? **Here's what I propose: "Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. ⁴⁰If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it.**

⁴¹**And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. ⁴²No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.**

⁴³"You're familiar with the old written law, "Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, "Hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, ⁴⁵for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best--the sun to warm and the rain to nourish--to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. ⁴⁶If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.

⁴⁷If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

⁴⁸"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.. **Matthew 5:38-48 (MSG)**

1. I feel like taking revenge when someone-

- a. Hits me. Yes No Maybe
- b. Calls me names. Yes No Maybe
- c. Tells lies about me. Yes No Maybe

- d. Pokes their tongue at me. Yes No Maybe
- e. Swears at me. Yes No Maybe

2. When people hurt me I normally

- a. Don't tell anyone and just hold it in.
- b. I explode and get angry.
- c. It doesn't bother me.
- d. I go off by myself and feel sorry for myself.
- e. I pray and ask God to forgive them.
- f. I try to talk to the person who has hurt me.
- g. I talk to someone who will help me.
- h. I spread rumors about the person who hurt me.

3. When a person hits someone, why do you think that person, may want to hit back harder?

4. The concept of an "eye for an eye" was not for revenge but to limit revenge. How do you think it would limit revenge?

5. What does the following statement mean "Bad actions are the result of bad attitudes?"

¹⁴Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. ¹⁵Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. ¹⁶Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

¹⁷Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. ¹⁸If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. ¹⁹Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

²⁰**Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness.**

Romans 12:14-20 (MSG)

6. What are four positive alternatives to revenge?

7. How would you answer the following letters?

* People pick on me a lot and I get really upset. I want to hit back but I know it is wrong. What should I do? * I like stirring a kid at my school because he's a bit slow. I know it is wrong but what should I do?

WRAP UP & PRAYER