

## More Secrets of the Kingdom

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. (See Matthew 5:21-26, 33-48; The Desire of Ages, pp. 310-312; Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 55-58, 66-78)

### Sabbath

**Do** Do this week's activity on page 81.



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.

"I want you to learn so many things," Jesus said. "If you are truly children of the Father, then you will treat friends and strangers with love and compassion. You don't always feel like doing this, I know. But remember, if you continually ask God

### Sunday

**Read** Read "More Secrets of the Kingdom."

**Learn** Start learning the power text. Review it every day.

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

**Pray** Praise God for the way He loves and cares for you.

# TWELVE

## POWER POINT

for the power to do it, He will give it to you.”

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.

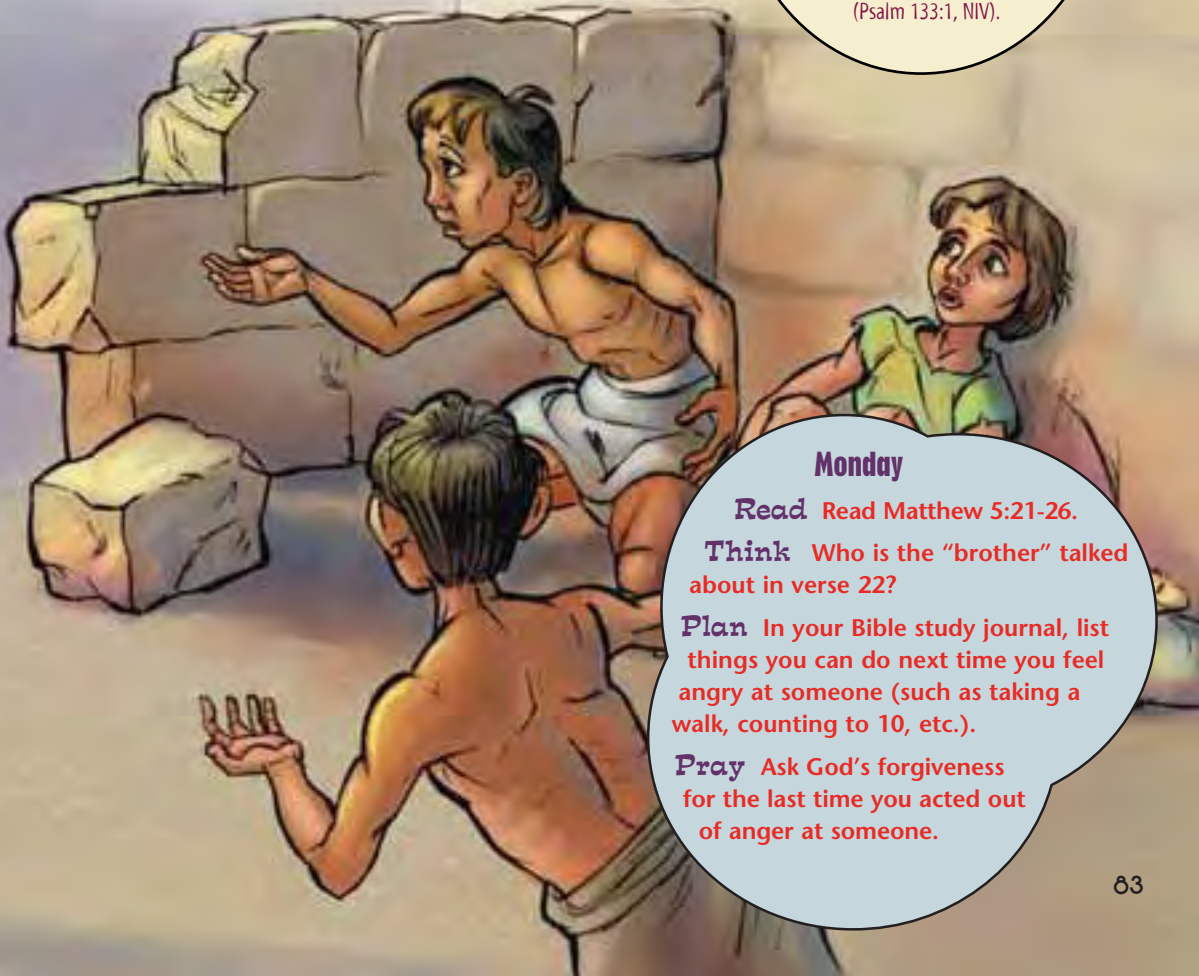
“Your actions will tell others much about what condition your heart is in,” Jesus said. “The Pharisees tell you that it’s wrong to kill. That’s right. God Himself said that many years

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

### POWER TEXT

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”

(Psalm 133:1, NIV).



### Monday

**Read** Read Matthew 5:21-26.

**Think** Who is the “brother” talked about in verse 22?

**Plan** In your Bible study journal, list things you can do next time you feel angry at someone (such as taking a walk, counting to 10, etc.).

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

ago. But it's also wrong to hate someone so much that you wish they were dead. This is the same thing as killing them."

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

"Sometime you might be worshiping God. You remember that you had an argument with someone. You need to go and ask their forgiveness. You can't really worship God when you have pride and hatred in your heart."

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 had made up, he didn't have that empty feeling anymore.

"There may be something you do that keeps leading you into sin. Even if it seems to be the most

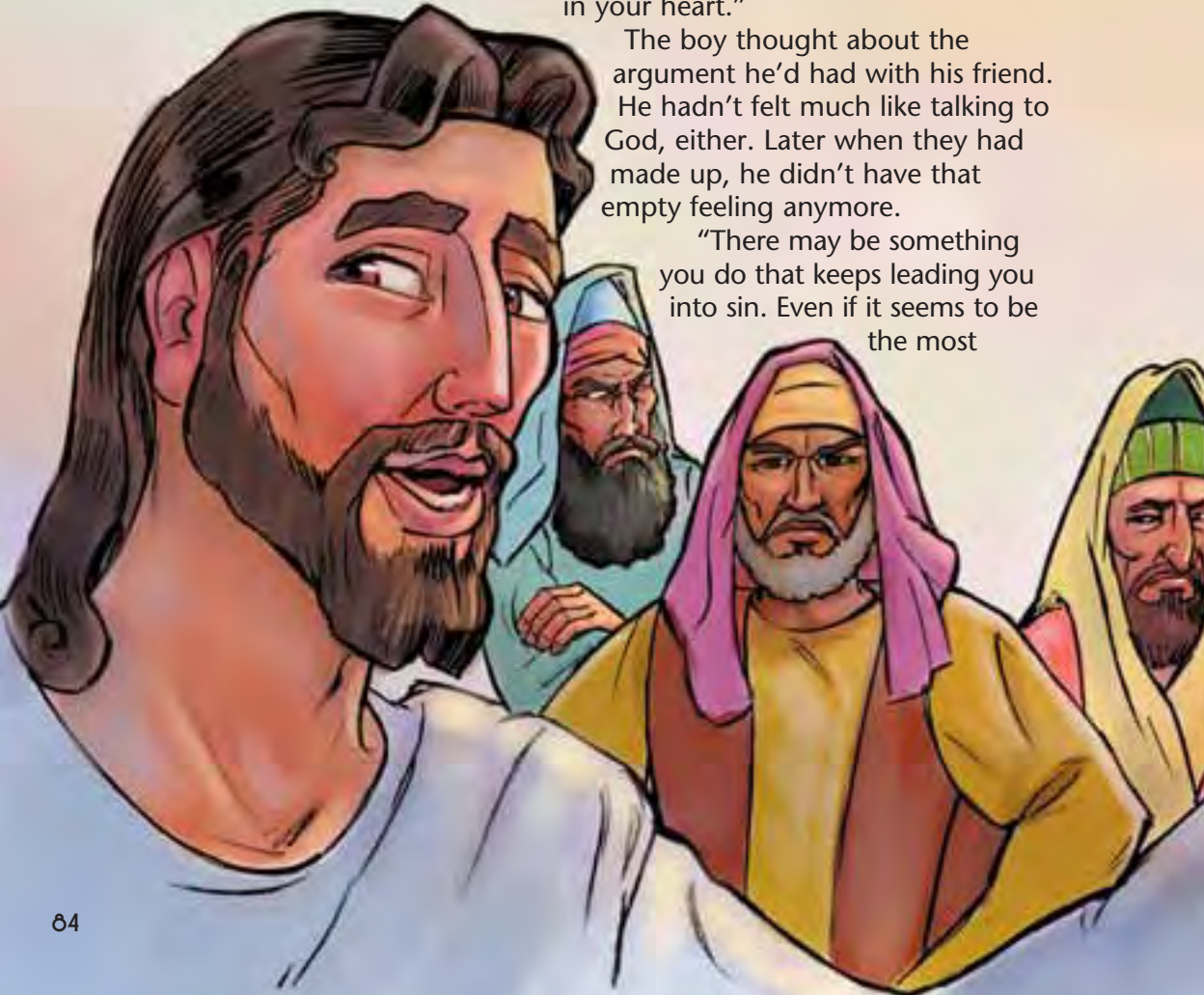
## Tuesday

**Read** Read Matthew 5:27-32.

**Think** What are some ways you can keep your thoughts pure?

**Look** Read Philippians 4:6-8. Answer the question above again.

**Pray** Ask that the peace of God will guard your heart and your mind.



precious thing in your life, you need to get rid of it," Jesus instructed. "You don't want to keep anything that interferes with God's making you into what He wants you to be."

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

"Many people say that it is OK to love your neighbor and hate your enemies," Jesus continued. "But remember, God gives the rain and the sun to everyone. If you want to be like Him, you will help others, even if they don't like you.

"When you help only those who are your friends and you ignore your enemies or people you don't know, then you are being selfish and cruel. You need to be like your heavenly Father and be aware of everyone's needs."

### 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 what they think about using common expressions similar to swearwords (such as "Gee").

**Pray** Ask God to give you the power to keep your promises and to keep your words pure.



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 she knew the people.

"Be careful, though," Jesus warned. "You shouldn't boast to other people when you are doing this. God knows

what you are doing for others. He's the only one who needs to know. One day He will tell everyone else what you have done."

The boy reflected on his mother's actions. She never made a big deal about what she was doing for others.

### Thursday

**Read** Read Matthew 5:38-42.

**Think** Is verse 39 saying you should allow yourself to get beaten up by someone? If not, what is it saying? What are three things you can do instead?

**Do** Plan a way to give more and go further for a friend today.

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

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



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

"As children of the heavenly Father, you must show those who don't know Him what being His followers truly means," Jesus said. "If they see each of you treating each other with love and respect, they will ask questions about why you act that way. Then you can tell them about God and what He has done in your life. But if you are careless in your actions, then you will not be a mirror of God's love. Those who don't know Him won't recognize anything different in your life. Then you will lose the chance to tell them about God and what He has done for you."

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 grinned. "I like that idea!" he said.

### Friday

**Read** Read Matthew 5:43-48.

**Think** According to this passage, what makes a Christian special?

**Act** Write down the name or draw a picture of a person who is your "enemy." List or draw three things that you can do to show love to that person. Do one thing each day for three days.

**Pray** Ask God to give you the grace and power to make peace with your "enemy."

