

Discussion questions for the video program

Episode 1, *Tales from Bledlow Ridge*

The Intruder

For a free catalog of our videos contact:



Vision Video
P. O. Box 540
Worcester, PA 19490
610-584-3500
1-800-523-0226
Fax: 610-584-6643
E-Mail: info@visionvideo.com
Web: www.visionvideo.com

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Kevin is a boy full of a lot of bitterness and unhappiness. What's the cause of his pouting and unhappiness?

2. How would you describe Kevin's parents?

Why do you think they didn't tell Kevin they were going to Singapore for a year or two?

How would you feel if your parents did that to you?

3. Rachel and David were often sullen as well, even though their parents hadn't shipped them off somewhere! Why do you think they were acting this way?

4. In what ways were Amy's attitude and behavior different from Rachel's and David's? Give several examples of Amy's kinder attitude.

What do you think were the reasons for this difference (was it Amy's personality or something else)?

5. David had several items he kept in his pocket. Which one did he value the most?

In what way is the compass a symbol of an important need in Kevin's (and every young person's!) life?

Where can the Christian look for direction in his/her life?

6. When Mr. Barton prayed before dinner, what did he say in his prayer which especially surprised Kevin?

7. How did Mrs. Barton's heart attack affect each member of the Barton family?

How did this become an important growing/learning time for them?

8. Underneath his sullenness, Kevin had a soft heart and a desire to be loved and appreciated. Give examples of ways Kevin expressed this tender side of himself.

9. After Mrs. Barton's heart attack, Mr. Barton and David were talking together, trying to come to some understanding of why such a thing would happen. David asked, "Does God mind when we find it hard to believe?" What illustration did David's Dad give to answer that question?

What was Mr. Barton trying to tell David about God in this illustration?

10. At first David didn't want to have to share his room with Kevin. Mr. Barton told David he must learn to first think about God rather than himself. How would this advice change David's attitude toward Kevin sharing his room?

11. What were some mistakes Kevin made?

Who else made mistakes in this episode? What were they?

What advice did Mr. Barton give Kevin on how to deal with mistakes?

Will simply admitting your mistakes and saying you're sorry always resolve the unpleasantness and problems which develop around mistakes? Why or why not?

12. Kevin wanted to give his reward money to his Aunt Sally so she would forgive him, but Mr. Barton said he could not buy forgiveness. True forgiveness has to be freely given. Yet, Kevin divides the money among his Barton cousins. Was he trying to buy their forgiveness?

Why did Rachel act the way she did when Kevin gave her the money?

13. Kevin at first said he could never ask Mrs. Barton for forgiveness. What keeps us from asking for forgiveness from others?

14. Mr. Barton told Kevin forgiveness is part of being in a family. God has forgiven us and continues to forgive us as part of His family. Why and how has God forgiven us? (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Acts 13:38)

15. Forgiveness is an important part of keeping good relationships with others as well as maintaining our relationships with God. According to Matt. 6:12, 14-15, what does our relationship with God depend on? (We cannot have a good relationship with God if we are unforgiving and bitter towards others.)

16. Read Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:21-35. What questions prompted Jesus to tell this parable?

What was the king's response to the slave's petition?

What did the slave later do?

Why was this wrong?

What spiritual lesson was Jesus teaching in this parable?

How will this spiritual truth change the way you live? (How will it change your behavior towards your parents, your brothers or sisters, your teachers, your schoolmates, your friends, your enemies?)

17. I John 1:6-10 is an important Scripture about forgiveness.

What does this passage teach us about ourselves?

What does this passage teach us about the power of Jesus' dying for us?

What does this passage teach us about God and forgiveness?

18. The Scriptures speak extensively about how to treat strangers and outsiders, or, to apply the title of this film, we might say "intruders." Here are several selected passages. Select a few and discuss how they apply to the coming of Kevin to the Barton's home.

Ex. 22:21, 23:12; Lev. 19:10, 25:6; Num. 15:15; Deut. 1:16, 14:29, 24:19-21, 26:11-13, 27:19; Jer. 22:3; Mat. 25:35; Heb. 13:2.

Discuss also how they might relate to your life as you encounter "intruders."

19. A key turning point in the film revolves around what to do with the loot that the young people discovered. This is what has been referred to as "ill-gotten gain." Use the following verses to discuss possessions acquired in unacceptable ways.

Prov. 13:11, Ezek. 22:12, Hab. 2:9-10.