

Day 10

## KURT THE RUBBER KNIFE THIEF

In my entire life, I have only stolen one thing. I was 5, and my neighbor had a really cool collection of rubber knives. Looking back on it, I'm not sure why a 5-year-old kid would have a rubber knife collection, but my buddy did. He had lots of rubber knives; certainly he wouldn't miss one, would he? So one day when he wasn't looking I grabbed the biggest, baddest rubber knife in his collection and snuck it out of his house.

Sadly, I didn't have much time to enjoy it. As soon as I set it on my nightstand to admire it, I was overwhelmed with guilt. How could I take something that wasn't mine? What would my mom and dad say when they found out? Why would I do something like this to my friend? Is Jesus going to zap me with lightning when I go to sleep tonight?

Guilt is an interesting thing. It can be bad if it causes you to dwell on the past or to not forgive yourself. But it can also be really, really good. Look at today's verse:

2 MINUTE

*Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation (Proverbs 14:9).*

5 MINUTE

- What does it mean to "acknowledge" something?

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- Why do you think it says that godly people acknowledge guilt? What does that mean?

Basically, this verse says there are two responses to feeling guilty: making fun of it or responding to it. The truth is that sometimes guilt is a good thing. If you rob a bank or hit your sister, then feeling guilty is the right reaction. If you rob a bank then go home and hit your sister, then you should really feel guilty! And the right way to respond to guilt is to make things right: Give back the money and apologize to your sister (that's what reconciliation means—to make something right).

- Have you ever felt bad about something you did that was wrong, but then someone else told you "it's no big deal?" What does this verse say about that?
- When we do something wrong, who is the main person we need to make things right (reconcile) with?

3 MINUTE

### Hanging out with God

Guilt can be a good thing because it moves us to make things right with God. HE is the first person we always have to make things right with. And what's cool about God is that he doesn't stay mad at us—the Bible says that the moment we confess what we've done, God wipes it away and doesn't remember it anymore. It even says that for those of us who have decided to follow Jesus, he has already forgiven everything—we just have to admit to what we did and accept God's immediate forgiveness!

- Is there something you've done that is making you feel guilty? How can you make that right with God? Spend some time praying to him about this.
- Is there something in life that you did a long time ago, and have already made right, but STILL feel guilty about? If so then talk to God about that, and know that he DOESN'T want for you to beat yourself up over the past. Ask him to help you know you're forgiven.

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