



Discussion Guide for “Herodias”

Empathy for the Devil Week 3

How do you resolve conflict? Chances are, however you approach a fight, you learned it from your family. Our families shape us for good and for ill. Herodias, the Evil Queen of Jesus’ day, illustrates for us the cost of generational sin. How can we overcome the sins we inherit from our families? And how can we leave a legacy of life for those who come after us?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Exodus 20:5-6](#)

[Ezekiel 18:19-22](#)

[Matthew 2:1-16](#)

[Mark 3:31-35](#)

[Mark 6:21-29](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

A sacred reading is a method of reading Scripture that invites God to speak to us through the text. If you have never done a sacred reading, here is [a simple step-by-step guide](#). This week’s passage is [Ezekiel 18:1-32](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What’s a behavior in your parents you swore you’d never do (and have done)? Or something you’ve seen you’ve accidentally passed on to your kids?
2. Compare Herodias’ scheme in Mark 6:21-29 to her grandfather Herod the Great’s in Matthew 2:1-16. Describe what it might have felt like to grow up in Herodias’ family. (If you’re feeling really brave, skim Herod the Great’s Wikipedia entry!)
3. Read Exodus 20:5-6. How would you describe the concept of ‘generational sin’? What about it feels unfair? Where do you see generational sin in your own family?
4. Read Mark 3:31-35. How has your church become a spiritual family for you? How does the Church heal our generational sins?
5. What does it look like this week for you to identify generational sin in your family? How can you begin to leave a legacy of life?