

# Life of Christ

## Loving your enemies

## Matthew 5:21-48

### Younger Verse

Love your enemies. Matthew 5:44

### Older Verse

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

### Lesson Goals

Explain what it means to love your enemies  
Tell how Jesus loved His enemies  
Share how we can love others

### Welcome Time

How many of you will send valentines to your enemies (or bully in the class)? Why not? Let's look at what Jesus said about it.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus sat on a mountainside and taught many things to people. He told them that revenge is for God not for us. If someone hurts us, Jesus said NOT to stand up to them. In fact, He tells us to be nice to them.

In Luke 6:31, there is a verse that is sometimes called the "Golden Rule." It says to do to others what you want them to do to you.

An important lesson that Jesus taught was about love. He said that we must LOVE our ENEMIES! Jesus is not talking about a kissing kind of love. He was talking about the kind of love you have for a best friend.

This kind of love is hard to have for an enemy. Jesus wants us to love others no matter what they have done to you. God created every person and He loves them, no matter what they may look like or the attitude they may have.

Now, God loves the person, but He does not love the wrong behavior. He wants us to love Him and follow Him with ALL our heart. That means that we do things his way and treat others with kindness and love instead of hatred and cruelty.

Think of a way that you can love your enemies. Really, when you love them, they are not your enemies any more!

Jesus gives us an example of how He loved His enemies. When He

was in the garden praying, soldiers came to arrest Him for no reason. He did not fight or ask God to hurt the people. Instead, He freely went with the soldiers. Even when the soldiers spit on Him and whipped Him, He loved them. Even on the cross, Jesus asked God to forgive them! Can you believe it?

Jesus loves us too! He died and came back to life so that we can live in heaven with God one day. We must believe and trust in Jesus. He died for all the wrong things we have done. We must trust Him and ask Him to come into our life, Jesus will stay with us forever and take us to heaven one day. Do you believe in Jesus? We can share with you how; just ask.

**Learning Activities**

Use activities to help the kids see how to love their enemies.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Write the words of the verse on craft sticks and put in order. Practice saying the verse together.

**Prayer Time**

The Bible tells us to pray for our enemies. Today have a SILENT time of prayer. Let the kids pray silently for their enemies. Explain that we are to pray good things for them.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Let the kids have responsibilities in helping you. Ask them to help with passing out treats, drinks, etc. Compliment them for their help.

Planning for Feb. 16th  
The Lord's Prayer  
Matthew 6:5-14

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Loving your enemies

Ask the kids, "When you see a heart, what do you think?" (The kids may think of Valentine's day, loving their mom, etc.) Today, we are going to listen and see people that Jesus wants us to love.

One day, Jesus sat down and talked to His friends. He told them that God loved them very much. He also told them that they should love other people. Jesus told His friends that they should love everyone, not just the people who were nice to them.

The people probably rubbed their ears. They could not believe that Jesus wanted them to love ALL people. It was easy to love people who are nice and kind to them. It is much, much harder to love people who are NOT nice.

Jesus also told the people to help others in the same way that they wanted others to help them. That means, if we want others to be nice to us, we must be nice to them!

Jesus really did tell the people to be kind and love ALL people. He told them that God also loved everyone and cared for ALL people. Jesus wants us to be kind to others too. He wants us to love and care for others just like He cares for us.

Let's pray and ask God to help us be kind to ALL people this week.

Sing this song to the tune of "Did You Ever See A Lassie."

The more we love each other, each other, each other,  
The more we love each other the happier we'll be.  
Be kind and be helpful. Be loving and caring.  
The more we love each other the happier we'll be.  
(from Standard Pub.)

Hands-on Activities  
For  
Loving your enemies

Bring two magnets that repel on one side and attract on the other side. Have the magnets face the repelling side. Try to slide the magnets together. As they repel, share how most people feel like this towards their enemies. Now turn the magnets so that they attract. Explain that Jesus wants us to love our enemies and pray for those who want to hurt us. Show the kids how the magnets stick together.

This is also the weekend before Valentine's Day. Take time to bring or make valentines for the kids (and for them to give others). Share how much Jesus loves them.

Use a heart shaped cookie cutter to cut bread into heart shapes. Spread with butter or peanut butter. (If you don't have this cookie cutter, try using a knife to make the heart shape.)

Attach the clock face to a paper plate. Share how Jesus loves everyone and has time for each of us. Explain that we must love others and care for them.

Make the Heart Cross Pattern. Cut it out and have the kids write their name on one side and someone to pray for on the other heart. Now fold the hearts together and share how Jesus can help fix any problems or hurts we have with that other person.

Use the envelope pattern to make an unusual envelope. Write the verse inside and share with others. Fold the four flaps inward and tuck in the last flap for a nice spiral look.