

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for Children

# Life of Christ

## Loving your enemies

## Luke 6:27-36

### Younger Verse

Treat others just as you want to be treated. Luke 6:31 CEV

### Older Verse

Treat others just as you want to be treated. Luke 6:31 CEV

### Welcome Time

Would you give a Christmas gift to someone that was a bully in your school? Probably not. Let's see what Jesus said about how to treat our enemies.

### 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 take revenge. In fact, He tells us to be nice to them.

Jesus told His friends to do good to those who mistreat them. Can you believe He said that? It's true. He also said to "turn your cheek." That means if someone hurts your feelings, don't lash back at them or hurt their feelings. Instead, be quiet and don't fight back.

In Luke 6:31, there is a verse that is sometimes called the "Golden Rule." It says to treat others just as you want to be treated.

We all want good things to happen to us. That's how we should treat others—even mean people!!

Jesus explained how easy it is to be nice to someone who is nice to you. That's true. He also told how hard it is to be nice to someone who is mean or cruel to you. That's what He is talking about...doing good to people who don't deserve it, just because God wants us to.

An important lesson that Jesus taught was about love. He said that we must LOVE our ENEMIES! 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

### Lesson Goals

Tell how Jesus loved His enemies

Explain what it means to love your enemies

Share one way we can treat others like WE want to be treated

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? Even after all the pain and suffering He went through, He still loved those who hurt Him.

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**

Tape the memory verse on “treats” today! Talk about how we want people to “treat” us. Then share the verse. Challenge the kids to give their “treat” to someone who has NOT treated them well.

**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 May 2  
Judging Others  
Luke 6:37-42

## Preschool Lesson For Loving your enemies

Ask the kids, “When you see a heart, what do you think?” 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.

Jesus said something that is sometimes called the “Golden Rule.” He said, “treat others as you want to be treated.” We all want to be treated nicely. That also means that we must treat others nicely too.

When the people heard this they 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.

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.)

This may be a hard activity for some to do. Bring cards or construction paper to make greeting cards. Now, have the kids make a pretty card for someone that has NOT been nice to them this week. They are to make a NICE card that says NICE things. Explain again how Jesus asked us to love our enemies. Share how this activity will help them start caring for others who have not been nice to us. Take time to encourage the kids and praise them for trying so hard to make enemies into friends.

Most cultures have the philosophy to hurt those that hurt us. Revenge is taken to the extreme sometimes. Find an example of that. Then share what WOULD have happened if they had followed Jesus' words. The enemies would have become friends!