

WHO'S IN OR OUT?

This activity will create a visual picture of what is in our heart. It will allow God to reveal to us His love for all people.

TOPICS:

Acceptance, God's Love, Humility, Love, Mercy

MATERIALS:

Heart worksheet
Pencils or markers
Whiteboard



DURATION:

Approximately 20 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, print enough copies of the heart worksheet to have one for each child. On the whiteboard, write Luke 6:27-28 word for word. However, leave blank lines in place of the word's *enemies*, *hate*, *curse*, and *mistreat*. Place the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 above the blank lines as shown below.

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your _____ (1) _____, do good to those who _____ (2) _____ you, bless those who _____ (3) _____ you, pray for those who _____ (4) _____ you."
Luke 6:27-28 NIV

Below the verse, create four columns listing words that could replace the blank spaces. The four lists should appear as follows:

<u>LIST 1</u>	<u>LIST 2</u>	<u>LIST 3</u>	<u>LIST 4</u>
Mom and Dad	Love	Curse	Love
Friends	Give to	Like	Enjoy
Enemies	Hate	Bless	Mistreat
Lord	Know	Love	Pray for

Answers: Enemies Hate Curse Mistreat

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Part 1:

Give each child a heart worksheet. Have them write the names of people they regularly pray for and care about inside the heart. Have the children write all the names of people they know, or types of people for whom they would not want to pray on the outside of the heart. If time permits, the children can also decorate their heart. When finished, set the projects aside until Part 2.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Part 2

I wrote some special verses on the board in front of you. They give us an important teaching from Jesus. However, I left some of the words blank. I also created four lists of words underneath the verses. What I would like to do as a class, is decide which word from each list goes with its corresponding blank space.

(Have the children take turns guessing which word goes in the blank space. If a child guesses wrong, allow some other child to make a guess. As the correct words are chosen, write them in the blank space. Once the verses are complete, have the children read them several times aloud.)

As followers of Christ, we should love our enemies and pray for those who have done us wrong. This goes against every part of our flesh, but we are not here to satisfy our flesh. We are here to honor God and bring glory to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which would bring more glory to God, having the names of just your close, loved ones inside the heart, or to include those who have wronged you inside as well? (*Allow for answers.*)
2. Are you living according to this principle? (*Allow for answers.*)

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