

## TEACHINGS FROM JESUS

### LESSON 3: LOVE FOR ENEMIES

*In this lesson, children will see the love that God has for all His people, and how we should show that same kind of love and kindness—even towards our enemies.*

#### TOPICS

Favoritism, Humility, Kindness, Love, Mercy

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

##### Who's In or Out? Part 1 (Activity)

Cover part 1 of this activity as the children arrive. Then, cover Part 2 during the memory work portion.

#### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

#### MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

**"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28 NIV**

##### Who's In or Out? Part 2 (Activity)

#### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

##### Introduction:

In today's lesson, we will learn that Jesus expects us to show love and kindness to everyone, even to our enemies. We should always act with humility and mercy. Sometimes, it is not easy to love our enemies, especially when they mistreat us or make us mad. However, God shares His love and kindness to all people without favoritism. Jesus calls us to do the same. Let's read from the Bible to find out what Jesus teaches about this important subject.

##### Read Luke 6:27-36 (Love for Enemies)

##### Discussion Questions:

1. According to these verses, whom are we supposed to love? (*Our enemies.*)
2. How should we react to someone who curses or mistreats us? (*We should bless and pray for that person.*)
3. What is wrong with loving only those who love you? (*It doesn't count for anything; even sinners love those who love them.*)
4. What makes it so difficult to love our enemies? (*Allow for answers.*)
5. How should we respond to someone who takes our coat? (*We should offer our shirt as well.*)
6. What happens, according to verse 35, when we lend to others without expecting anything in return? (*Our reward will be great, and we become children of the most high.*)
7. Why do you think Jesus wants us to go the extra mile in order to show mercy, love, and kindness to our enemies? (*When we love our enemies, we act like Jesus. If we do not love our enemies, we are just acting like the rest of the world.*)
8. What are some ways you can show kindness to someone who is mean? (*Allow for responses.*)

## **CLASS EXERCISE (12 minutes)**

### **Fill Them with God's Kindness (Object Talk)**

## **APPLICATION (4 minutes)**

Matthew 7:12 is known as the Golden Rule. Jesus says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Our lesson today is very similar. Jesus says, "Love your enemies." Making a decision to love your enemy is the first step to treating others like you would want them to treat you. Jesus also wants us to take this action to the next level. Not only should we love our enemies, but we should also bless them, pray for them, give freely to them, and show them kindness even when we don't want to. These are all humble actions and choices that we must make. God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. We should do the same.

Can you think of any examples in the Bible where someone showed love, kindness, mercy, or prayed for someone who had wronged him or her in some way?

### *Examples:*

- Joseph chose to forgive his eleven brothers for trying to kill him.
- Jesus prayed to His Father while on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."
- Esau chose to love and forgive his brother Jacob for robbing him of his birthright and blessing.

## **NEXT WEEK**

Come back next week for another exciting teaching from Jesus.

## **CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)**