LESSON 3: LOVE FOR ENEMIES

Grades 1-3
This lesson reveals God’s love for all people. Students will understand and practice how Jesus calls us to love everyone, even our enemies.

Activity 1- (10 minutes)
'I Want that One': See instructions below

Activity 2- Bible Verse (5 minutes)
* Have students repeat this verse several times aloud with you. As you repeat the verse, have them cross their arms in front of their chest when they say the word "love."

Discussion Questions:
1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Love your enemies"? (Allow children to respond.)
2. Why should we do good to those who hate us? (Allow children to respond.)

Activity 3-Bible Story (15 minutes)
Gather the children around the prayer table or around you in preparation for the story. After reading the introduction, read the story right from the Children’s Bible or appropriate translation.

Introduction:
‘We are going to learn that Jesus is teaching us not play favorites. Let’s read from the Bible to find out what Jesus says about loving our enemies.’

Read Luke 6:27-36 (Love For Enemies-those that hurt us)
Questions:
1. Who are we supposed to love even when they have wronged us? (Those who have hurt us.)
2. If someone wants to borrow something, are we supposed to let him or her borrow it? (Yes.)
3. Are we supposed to treat others the way we want to be treated? (Yes. This is what we call the golden rule: Do to others, as you would have them do to you.)
4. If we give something to our enemy to show love, should we expect to receive something in return? (No. We should give without expecting anything in return.)
5. Why does Jesus expect us to forgive those who hurt us? (Because he forgave those who crucified him)
6. God wants us to show mercy to our enemy. What do you think it means to show mercy? (Mercy is being kind, forgiving, and loving towards someone who you feel doesn’t deserve it. God tells us to treat everyone with kindness.)

Activity 4 (15 minutes)
‘Pray for Your Enemies’ (Craft)

Prayer Snack (10 min)
Start by thanking God for the unconditional love He has for all people. Ask God to give us the same love for our enemies. Explain to the children that they can practice giving without expecting anything in return by sharing their snacks with others outside of the classroom.

Activity 5
Closing (5-10 minutes)
‘Move on Down the Line’
ACTIVITY 1
I WANT THAT ONE

(Coloring Activity) As followers of Jesus, we should not have favorites, but love everyone.

TOPICS:
Favoritism, Love, Mercy

MATERIALS:
Coloring worksheet [PDF] Click here
Crayons

DURATION:
Approximately 10 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:
(Give each child a coloring page and crayons.) Today, we are going to discuss favorites. I want you to pick your favorite animal on the page and then color it. Remember, you can only pick one animal.

(Once everyone has finished coloring, go around the room to see which animals were selected as favorites.)

Discussion Questions:
1. Why did you pick that animal as your favorite?
2. Why didn't you pick one of the other animals?
3. If these were real animals, what do you think would happen to the animals that were not picked as pets?
4. Are all animals as lovable as other animals? Does God love everything He created?

Animals and people share some similarities. Animals come in different shapes, colors, sizes, and have different personalities. However, no matter what they look like, they are all still animals. People come in different sizes, colors, and have different personalities as well. Yet, no matter how we look or how we act, we are all people created by God.

Everyone needs to experience God's love. God does not want us to ignore or neglect people just because they do not look like us or because their actions make them hard to love. The Lord wants us to love everyone, even our enemies. One way we can love our enemies is by praying for them.
ACTIVITY 4
PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES

Children will enjoy this craft as they learn to love and pray for their enemies.

TOPICS:
Difficulties, Forgiveness, Humility, Love, Mercy

MATERIALS:
Scripture slips NIV [PDF] Click here
KJV [PDF] Click here
Heart sheet [PDF] Click here
Envelopes, crayons, glue sticks
Stapler, Ziplock bags
Heart stickers (Optional)

DURATION:
Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION:
Print and cut out the scripture slips and hearts. Each child in class will receive a Ziplock bag containing one scripture slip and six hearts.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:
Give each child a Ziplock bag containing the cutouts and one envelope. Have the children glue the scripture verse to the front of their envelopes and then draw hearts to decorate their envelopes. You may have the children use the optional heart stickers at this time.

Next, on their heart shapes, have children draw pictures of people they feel have mistreated them or whom they feel are a current enemy. Then, have them put their completed pictures into their envelopes and pray for those people. After the children complete their crafts and pray, help them staple their Ziploc bags, filled with any extra hearts, to their envelope in order to take home. (If children have used all six hearts, place several more hearts in their bags.)

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:
We are going make a reminder envelope to love and pray for our enemies. There are people who we dislike, and there are those who enrage or scare us. Each of you will take home an envelope that will help you remember to love your enemies and pray for them. Whenever an individual mistreats you or when you see someone as an enemy, you can draw a picture of that person on one of the hearts and put it into your prayer envelope. Then, pray for that person right away.
ACTIVITY 5

MOVE ON DOWN THE LINE: (10 MIN)

Children will practice giving without expectations of receiving something in return.

TOPICS:
Child of God, Giving, Humility, Love

MATERIALS:
Sheets of stickers

DURATION:
Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:
Cut or buy sticker sheets so that each sheet contains just enough stickers for half the children in class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:
Divide the class into two groups. One group will be referred to as “Group A” and the other as “Group B.” Next, have each group form a line, standing shoulder to shoulder, with both groups facing one another, which will result in the children being paired up. If a student does not have a partner, the teacher will be his or her partner.

Group A - This group remains stationary and will receive stickers from Group B. When the students receive the stickers, they will stick them to their clothing or hands.

Group B - Give each child in this group a sticker sheet. On the teacher’s queue, each child in this group will choose one sticker to give to the child directly across from him or her.

After everyone in Group A has affixed their stickers, say, "Move on down the line" and the children in Group B will move one person to the right. The person on the end will move to the front of the line. The activity continues until all the children in Group B are out of stickers.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:
In this activity, we are going to practice giving without expectations of receiving something in return. In Luke 6:35, God tells us, "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

We will form two groups. One group will be in charge of giving out the stickers. The other group will receive the stickers.

Optional: As parents pick up their children, give students a sticker to give to someone they know. Remind students not to expect anything in return.

Discussion Questions:
1. Group A, how did it feel to receive stickers without having to give something back? (Allow for discussion.)
2. Group B, how did it feel to give all your stickers away and not have any for yourselves? (Allow for discussion.)
3. Why do you think God tells us to give to others without expecting anything in return? (Giving without expecting something in return is a true expression of love.)