



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

March 26, 2025

Bible Story: Revenge- Matthew 5: 38-48

Big Idea: God helps us love our enemies.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 5:38-48. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about how to treat our enemies. Even though most people think it's okay to hate their enemies, Jesus says to love our enemies and pray for people who persecute us. He also says not to work for revenge but instead be generous. Talk about these ideas as a family. Help kids see that when someone makes them mad, they can show kindness and love.

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/03/12/mar-26>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to help you love the kids in your class who are harder to love.

Quick Tip:

You may see "enemy" type encounters between kids in your class! Two kids fighting over the same toy. A boy who won't quit chasing a girl, who is clearly annoyed. Kids exchanging mean words. When you see these kinds of behaviors, nip them in the bud. If you have values or rules you communicate weekly, refer to one that counters their behavior. If not, remind kids that we treat others with love, no matter how they are treating us.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- 12- to 24-piece interlocking puzzles (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- resealable plastic bags to store puzzles (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep: For every 3 groups of 5 or 6 kids, mix the pieces of 3 puzzles together and then divide them into 3 bags. Keep boxes or frames with their bags of pieces. If you choose puzzles that are dramatically different, it will be easier for kids to see where their extra puzzle pieces belong.

Talk About Puzzles

Say: It's fun to put together a puzzle and get all the pieces in the right place.

Ask: • Tell about a puzzle you did. Have a few kids describe their favorite puzzles to you.

Share Puzzle Pieces

Say: We have some fun puzzles in our class today. Let's see how fast we can put our puzzles together.

- Form groups of five or six kids. (You'll need at least two groups.) Give each group a bag of puzzle pieces and the frame or box for one puzzle in that set.
- Keep the sets of three puzzles with groups that are close to one another.
- Signal kids to begin, and encourage groups to use the pieces to complete the puzzles as quickly as possible.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids put the puzzles together.
- After a couple of minutes, say: It looks like you don't have what you need to finish your puzzle. Maybe you can help your friends finish their puzzles instead. If kids had already begun to take their extra pieces to the correct puzzles, encourage them to continue and everyone else to do the same.
- Help kids work together to get all the puzzles completed.
- If time allows, encourage groups to trade puzzles and work together to complete them as quickly as possible.

Say: In our game, we were trying to finish our puzzle, but no one could finish a puzzle unless we helped each other. Sometimes we feel like we're working against people, not with them. Sometimes friends don't get along. But God helps us be kind and work together. God helps us love our enemies.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "Enemy Territory"

Say: God helps us love our enemies. But that's not always easy to do! Let's see how one frustrated neighbor deals with a loud, obnoxious neighbor.

Watch "Enemy Territory."

Ask: • Belle's loud music really annoyed Button. What annoys you?

- How do you react when people do those things?
- Button made a false accusation just because he didn't like Belle. How can our opinions of people change the way we see them?

Say: Sometimes when we decide we don't like someone, all we see are bad things about that person. That's what happened to Button! But in the end, Button realized Belle wasn't as bad as he thought. God helps us love our enemies and look for the good in them.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible
- stickers (more than 1 per child)
- basket or bag

Easy Prep: Ask 2 adult or teen helpers to lead the 2 groups in the game.

Talk About Loving People

Say: We have lots of people we love. Some people are easier to love than others. Share about someone who's easy for you to love. Maybe it's your kids, your spouse, or your grandma.

Ask: • Tell about someone who's easy for you to love. Kids may say their mom, their grandpa, or their best friend.

Say: Today we're learning that God helps us love our enemies. Our enemies are people who aren't kind to us. That makes it harder to love them and be kind to them. Let's think more about that with a game.

Play a Taking Game

- Divide the class into two groups (Group A and Group B), and direct them to opposite sides of the room, each with an adult or teen helper. Have each group sit in a line facing the other group.
- Scatter stickers on the floor in front of both groups of kids.
- Have Group B turn their backs to Group A and close their eyes while their helper counts slowly to 10.
- Group A will silently sneak over and take as many stickers as they can from Group B, but they must be back to their side by the time Group B's helper reaches 10. They'll place the stickers with the others on their side.
- Group B turns back around and shares how they feel about Group A taking their stickers.
- Play a second round, switching roles, but have Group A lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. After Group B has returned to their side, have Group A pretend to wake up.
- Invite Group A to share how they feel about their stickers being taken.
- Repeat the whole process two more times, so each group gets another turn to take the stickers. Have taking groups do new actions, such as crawl on their bellies or crab walk to get to the stickers. Have waiting groups do new actions, such as sitting on their hands and standing facing the wall.

Give It Away

Say: When someone does something mean to us, we often want to do something mean back. But if we all do that, then we just keep going back and forth, hurting each other. God helps us love our enemies. He helps us act in a different way that doesn't hurt others, even if they hurt us. Have the group with more stickers huddle up and decide how they can be kind instead of hurtful. If no preschooler suggests they can give the stickers to the other group, offer the suggestion and then have them do it.

Ask: • How does it feel to stop taking and give or get stickers instead? Kids may say they're happy or they want to give some back. Encourage kids to talk about what they can do next. If kids don't suggest that they can all share the stickers, make the suggestion. Have each child pick one sticker to take home, or more if you have extras.

Talk About God's Love

Say: It's not easy to love someone who hurts us or takes something from us, but God helps us love our enemies. He can put his love into our hearts and help us be kind and even pray for people who are hard to love. Here's what the Bible says. **Read aloud John 15:12.**

Say: If we're kind and loving to people who aren't kind and loving to us, we're loving like God. He loves everyone, even people who are hard to love. With his help, we can love like God does! Lead kids to pray and ask God to help them love everyone, even people who are hard to love.

Life Application:

Join the Huddle

Say: Today we learned God helps us love our enemies. That means we are kind even when they aren't. God wants us to love everyone—friend or enemy. Invite each child by name to join you in a huddle that everyone is included in.

If you have more than 10 kids, have adult and teen helpers invite kids simultaneously into the one big huddle.

Say: This huddle is like a big group hug! We're all welcome because we love and include everyone no matter what!

Pray

Say: God helps us love everyone, including enemies. Let's ask him for help with being kind, even to our enemies. Lead kids in a prayer, having them repeat the following:

God, help us share with enemies.

God, help us say kind words to enemies.

God, help us walk away instead of fighting.

Close in prayer. Thank kids for coming to your class. Remind them that they're all welcome back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God helps us love our enemies. He said to do even more than people ask of us, like carry a soldier's gear an extra mile. Let's color someone doing that.

Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God helps us love our enemies. That's because God loves everyone! God can see the good in people, even if we can't. Let's try to see everything we can about people.

Distribute the activity pages facedown. When you say, "Go," you'll allow about one minute for kids to study the picture and try to memorize it. Then have them flip it facedown again.

- **Ask:** • How many people were wearing glasses? (3)
- • The woman in the middle was wearing ____ around her neck. (a stethoscope)
- • How many people were wearing hats? (4)
- • How many kids were in the picture? (3)
- • What number was on the young girl's shirt? (13)
- • Describe the person who was holding the dog's leash. (older woman with glasses and a hat, wearing a dress with a coat over it and high heels)
- • What letter was on the shirt with a letter? (A)
- • What pattern was on the shirt of the man wearing overalls? (plaid)
- • What would have helped you get 100 percent correct on all these questions?

Say: Sounds like more time looking closely would have helped! So let's compare what we just did to loving our enemies.

Ask: • Why is it hard to notice good things about people who are mean to us?

Say: It was hard to learn everything about the people in this picture in just one minute. And we didn't even know anything about who they are on the inside! God helps us love our enemies. With God's help, we can look closer and see the good inside them.