



Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

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

- clean, rolled-up socks (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep: Roll up individual, clean socks.

Tips: Are socks too hard of a supply? You can use paper wads, but kids may not be able to toss them as cleanly if they start to come uncrumpled.

Toss Socks

Say: Today we're exploring how God wants us to love our enemies. That means caring about people who aren't on our team. We'll explore how to do that by playing a game of "Go Team! Sock Toss."

- Form kids into two groups of equal size. If there is an uneven number of kids, join in yourself to even out the teams. Have teams form two lines about 5 feet apart, with kids in each line standing shoulder to shoulder—about 18 inches between them. Position lines so every child has a partner in the line standing opposite. Have each child identify his or her partner.
- Explain that partners will toss a rolled-up sock back and forth. How they'll throw and catch it will change according to your instructions. Add that you'll declare a winning pair based on how often they drop their socks and winning style points along the way.
- When you call out "Switch!" a kid at the end of one line will race to the opposite end of the line, and everyone will slide down one spot—all without stopping the throwing and catching.
- Control the pace of the game by how often you call for a switch and how often you call for a new way to throw or catch socks.
- Some ways you can have the kids throw socks are with your right hand, with your left hand, over your shoulder, while kneeling, between your legs, while jumping, like a football, like shooting a basketball free throw, and with your eyes closed.
- Ways to catch the sock could include with your left hand, with your right hand, with both hands, behind your back, without using your hands, and with your eyes closed.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Say: It's official: I'm declaring you all winners! Give anyone who was your partner a high-five! Kids will high-five everyone in the opposite line.

You competed against other pairs, so that made them your enemies in this game...but at some point everyone was your partner, so they're your friends. Confusing!

Ask: • When have you competed against a friend? Were you still friends when the competition was over? Why or why not?

Say: Jesus tells us that God helps us love our enemies. One reason to love our enemies is that God uses people in our lives to shape us—even people we don't like or who are mean. A bully in your life might prompt you to be bold and have courage, or maybe the bully will help you depend more completely on God. So treat your enemies well—it reflects God's love, and God may be using those enemies to shape you!

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

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- dry-erase markers (1 per child)
- sandwich-size resealable plastic bags (1 per child)
- paper towels

Easy Prep: Cut paper into sizes that will fit in the bags. You'll need 1 piece per child.

Mark Up a Paper

Say: Today we're talking about enemies. We might not always label people as "enemies," but we all have experiences with people being mean to us and being hard to love.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. Have each child draw a heart on the paper, then put it in a bag and seal it. Have kids pair up, and give each child a dry-erase marker. Have kids give examples of mean things people might do to them. For each thing, kids will scribble with the markers on their partners' bags.

Ask: • Compare your heart paper before we named mean things to your heart paper now.

Say: When people hurt us in these ways, the way we naturally want to respond is often by taking revenge. Have kids say things they might want to do to get back at someone who was mean to them. For each thing, kids will add another scribble on their partners' bags.

Ask: • What difference did it make to the mess on our bags when we got revenge?

Say: The problem with revenge is that it often just makes a bigger mess. And then the people who we got back at want to get back at us again...and it just keeps going. It ends up hurting us just as much as the other person. That's why God helps us love our enemies. But what does that really look like? Does it mean letting bullies beat us up? Does it mean sitting there and taking it when someone is making fun of us? If not, what can we safely do to show love to our enemies? Let's dig in to that.

Deeper Bible: cont.

Dig Deeper

Distribute paper towels.

Read Matthew 5:44.

Ask: • What's one thing you could pray about for your enemy? As kids share examples, they can erase some of the marks on their bags.

Say: If someone is physically hurting us or continually making fun of us, we can get some distance from that person to stay safe. But we can pray for the person even from far away! Praying is a great way God helps us love our enemies.

Read Proverbs 25:21.

Ask: • What's one thing you could share with someone who's hard to love? As kids give examples, they can erase more marks on their bags.

Say: You don't have to give bullies your lunch money because they demand it. But you can pay attention to what your enemies might need and choose to share things that could help them.

Read Luke 6:28.

Ask: • This is going to be a tough one! Think of someone who has been mean to you. Don't name names, but say one kind thing about that person. As kids share answers, they can erase more marks.

Say: If someone makes fun of you a lot, try speaking only kind things about that person. You might find it takes some of the heat out of the situation!

Read Matthew 7:12.

Ask: • What's one way you could model kindness to someone who doesn't seem to know how to be kind? As kids share answers, they can erase more marks from their bags.

Say: When we do to others what we'd like them to do to us, we might be modeling kindness to someone who has never really seen it before. Maybe people will learn from our example!

Read Proverbs 24:17.

Say: A lot of times, we root against our enemies. If they've been mean to us, we want them to suffer for it! But one thing we can safely do to love our enemies—even from far away if we need to—is wish the best for them.

Ask: • What's one good thing you could hope to happen to an enemy? As kids share, have them erase more marks from their bags.

• Compare your bag now to when we first marked it up.

• How does this bag show what can happen to our enemies—and ourselves—when we show love instead of getting revenge?

Say: Showing love instead of getting revenge is hard when someone has been mean to us. But when we do it, we'll find that love can heal our own hearts as well as our enemies'. And the good news is, we don't have to love our enemies in our own strength. God helps us love our enemies.

Life Application:

Pray for Enemies

Say: God helps us love our enemies, and Jesus said to pray for our enemies! Let's do that now. Think of someone who's hard for you to get along with.

- **Say:** First, ask God to help your enemy have a good day. Allow time for silent prayer.
- **Say:** Now, ask God to show you some of the good qualities in that person.
- Allow time for silent prayer.
- **Say:** Finally, ask God to help your enemy see his love...through your actions! Allow time for silent prayer.
- Close the prayer time by asking God to help kids love their enemies.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come 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.