

TRUE LOVE

LESSON 2: LOVE IS KIND

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In this lesson, children will discover how genuine love that comes from God means we will show kindness to all people, even our enemies.

TOPICS

Love, Acceptance, Kindness

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

(First read to the children Luke 6: 27-36 and explain to the kids how Jesus was very clear that we should love others, even those who don't love us.)

There is a popular Bible story that illustrates that LOVE IS KIND, even to an enemy. In this story, the Jews had an enemy that lived very near to them. They were called Samaritans. When they traveled, Jewish people would do their best to walk around the land where the Samaritans lived. Let's all find this story in our Bibles.

Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Have the children read this story. A suggestion may be to go around the room and have each child read one or two verses. Or you may want to assign the words of Christ to someone who has a commanding voice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to the man who was traveling to Jericho? *(He was robbed and beaten nearly to death.)*
2. How did the priest and Levite react when they saw the wounded man lying on the road? *(They passed him by on the other side of the road.)*
3. Who finally offered help? *(A Samaritan)*
4. What did the Samaritan do for the wounded man? *(Cleaned him up and took him to an inn, then gave money for his care.)*
5. Who showed love and kindness in this story, a relative or an enemy? *(An enemy)*
6. What did the Samaritan expect in return for his kindness? *(Nothing)*
7. Is it enough to love those who love us? Why? *(No, Jesus commands us to show love to everyone.)*
8. Why did Jesus choose a Samaritan, an enemy of the Jewish people to be the one to show kindness? *(To show that true love does not have boundaries, neither ethnic, racial, geographical nor religious.)*

CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

Real Acts of Kindness (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD TERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Back in the Bottle (Game – See page 2)

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

We know it is important to love and be kind to each other. But today we learned that Jesus wants us to love even our enemies. That takes a very powerful kind of love that can only come from Jesus. But who is our enemy? It can be anyone who thinks differently from us, who disagrees with us, or who treats us badly. It can be a neighbor, a school mate, a relative, or even a friend. But if we are kind and loving to them, who knows, we may draw them to Jesus. And Jesus loves everyone, even those who put Him to death on a cross. If Jesus can love people who put Him to death, surely we can love those who simply look down on us.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

BACK IN THE BOTTLE

An activity to show how words can hurt and how hard it is to put them "back in the bottle" once they are said.

TOPICS:

Love, Kindness

MATERIALS:

Toothpaste tubes (Travel Size)
Toothpicks
Cutting board (or Cardboard)



PREPARATION:

Before starting the lesson, make sure you have enough toothpicks and tubes of toothpaste for each child.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Get a tube of toothpaste for each child. You can get them the small travel kind - it does not need to be a big tube. Before starting, talk with them about the importance of words and their intentions. Talk about how you can say something, but once it's heard the bad effects have already started to take place. Talk about what nice words look like and how they make us feel. Also, talk about how mean words might make us feel.

(Parents, ember - By talking about how they would feel, we can get to their hearts rather than just their behavior.)

Next, line each child up and tell them to start squeezing the toothpaste out of the tube. Let them have fun squirting it out onto the cutting board.

Once it's all out – give them toothpicks. Tell them that they have 1 minute to put as much toothpaste as they can back into the bottle and that they can only use the toothpicks to do it. The child with the most wins! They may know right away they can't put it back, but insist they try.

(Parents – If you only have one child, try jumping in and playing with them!)

After the game, talk to them about how our words can be like this game. Once your words come out of our mouth, you cannot stop what has been heard, and it can have really hurtful effects on the people around you. You can ask for forgiveness, but those words can still have a lot of weight on people.

Conclude by coming up with some nice words to say to each other.