

Sharefaith Video:
<https://youtu.be/bTlvsLqWj0Y>
 Love Your Enemies posted by
 Calvary Lutheran



Lesson 15: SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Part 3) LOVE OTHERS... EVEN YOUR ENEMIES (Matt 5:38-47, 7:12)



The Bible says that Jesus sat on a hillside and preached his “Sermon on the Mount.” He taught us how to love others, even our enemies. Did he teach that we can hurt others if they hurt us? Can we get revenge? “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?” No. Jesus taught that we should love our enemies.

During the time of Jesus, Israel was ruled by the Roman Empire. The Romans made life very hard for the Jews. The Roman Emperor demanded that the people worship him instead of God. Roman tax collectors took the peoples’ hard-earned money. Roman soldiers bullied the Jewish people. The Jewish people viewed Rome as their enemy.



Jesus gave some examples of what it means to love our enemies.



Jesus said, “If someone slaps you on your right cheek, let them slap you on your left cheek as well.” This would have been very difficult for the people to accept, but Jesus wanted everyone to understand something very important. **Love doesn’t take revenge. Love doesn’t hurt others who have caused harm.**

Jesus gave a second example. “If anyone brings you to court to take your shirt, let them have your coat as well.” A person’s outer coat was very important in Jesus’ time. It was as a blanket on cold nights. But Jesus wanted the people to understand that **true love comes from a deep trust in God. Love will give away things that are very valuable, even to those that don’t deserve them.**





Next Jesus said, “If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it for 2 miles. According to Roman law, soldiers could force people to carry their heavy gear for one mile.

People hated having to do this, and they would never think of going an extra mile. But Jesus taught that **love always serves others, even enemies. LOVE GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND – DOING MORE THAN IN EXPECTED.**



Jesus was teaching that we should love others the way that God loves us. Jesus explained that God is like a good father in heaven. God shows His goodness and love to everyone, even to those who don’t deserve it. God gives His very best gifts like sunshine and rain to everyone, good and bad. Jesus wants us to love each other in the same way.

Do you want someone to be mean to you? No! Jesus wants us to treat people with kindness. He said, “**In everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you.**” We call this the “Golden Rule.”

Later, on the cross, Jesus would become the perfect example of love. People hurt and insulted him, but he didn’t take revenge or get even. Instead, Jesus gave the most valuable gift of all – his own life as a payment for our sins. Our savior went the extra mile so that we could be free from our sins and live with God in heaven forever. God loved us, even when we were sinners. And this is how Jesus says we are to love others.



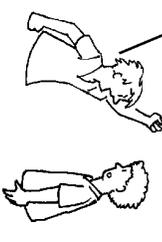
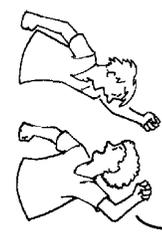
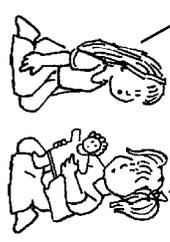
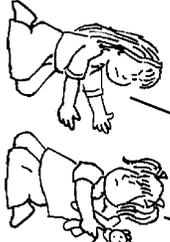
We matter! And we want to live in a way that says to others, “You matter too!” We want to be like Jesus!

PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

Jesus Talks About Loving Enemies

Do not return evil for evil.

Circle those in the right-hand boxes who are returning good for evil.

 <p>I hate you!</p>	 <p>But I like you!</p>	 <p>I hate you too!</p>
 <p>You made me angry!</p>	 <p>That's too bad!</p>	 <p>I'm sorry.</p>
 <p>Can I play too?</p>	 <p>Give it to me!</p>	 <p>Let's be friends.</p>
 <p>No!</p>	 <p>No way!</p>	

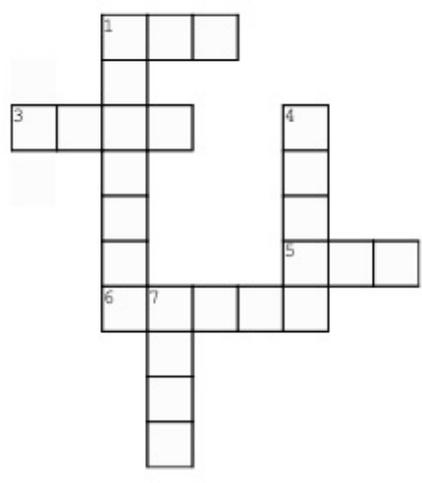
It is easy to love those who love you and more difficult to love those who hate you. But Jesus says to ...

Trace the dashed lines. Start at the →'s.

LOVE
YOUR
ENEMIES

UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY "Love Your Enemies" Crossword Puzzle





Across

2. "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to ____, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
3. But God shows His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ ____ for us."
5. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten ____, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."
6. Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. He came to ____, not to be served.

Down

1. Instead of acting in vengeance, Jesus said to, "Love your ____, and pray for those who persecute you."
4. We are commanded to bless those who ____ us.
7. The religious leaders of Jesus' time used the law of God to exact vengeance on those who offended them, Jesus taught his disciples to never return evil for ____.

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Write About It:

Has someone ever been mean to you? Describe a time when it may have been hard to love them.

PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP YOU! _____

