

Overview of January Segment 3 lessons



UNIT THEME: The Trinity : God the Father

The Bible tells clearly, that there is only one God. In Deuteronomy 6:4 we read: “*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*” Jesus confirms this in the New Testament, in Mark 12:28-29. When asked which commandment is the most important of all, Jesus answered, “*The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*” So, Muslims, Jews and Christians all confess there is only one God.

Christians believe that there is one God, who has revealed Himself in three persons/ the Trinity: namely, our Father in heaven, as our Savior Jesus, the Son, and as the Holy Spirit, who dwells in believers. This belief is backed by biblical proof. One such is seen in Jesus promise to his followers in John 14:16-17 “*I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (the Holy Spirit), to be with you forever.*” Here we see all the members of the Trinity being mentioned.

The lessons this month focus on the one who Jesus said he would pray to— the Father. The lessons look at some commandments in God’s word that He is expecting us to obey. As you teach these lessons it is our hope that the Holy Spirit will help you convey these truths to your students and a life changing experience will be the result.

January Segment 3 Lessons

1st Sunday—Put God first

2nd Sunday— Love your neighbour

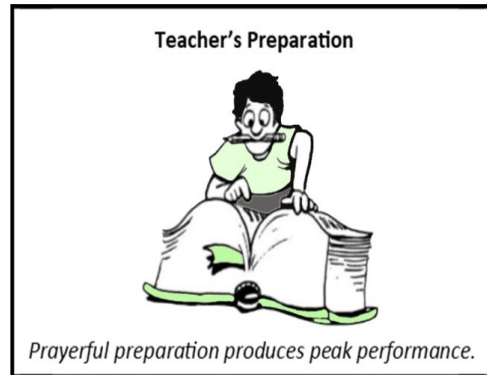
3rd Sunday— Love your enemy

4th Sunday—Fear God

LESSON

Children 12 years and under

January 3rd Sunday



January 3rd Sunday.... Love Your Enemies

Topic: Love Your Enemies

Main Text: Matthew 5:43-46; Luke 6:27-36

Central focus: God commands us to love our enemies

Golden Text: Mathew 5:44 - But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Specific Objective/Learning Outcome

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge (What will students know?)

- The Golden Text
- Who is an enemy
- How to detect an enemy
- How to treat an enemy

Psychomotor Domain - Skills (What will students do?)

Learn the Golden Text

Affective Domain- Attitudes (What will students feel /experience?)

Today we should feel willing to love our enemies.

Materials: Copies of the activity

Teacher's Inspiration

As you prepare to teach your students, may you be inspired by the following reflection;

After the horrific school shooting in Broward County, Florida on February 14, 2018, several prayer vigils were held in the community. The vigil on Thursday evening ended with a request for everyone to write one specific act of good that they would perform in the coming days and weeks as a way to channel the raw emotions of the night into something positive. (New York Post – Feb 15, 2018)

And, amazingly, prayers were read for Nikolas Cruz, the murderer, and his extended family as well. (Prayer by Eddie Bevill, of Parkridge Church, Coral Springs)

"We ask that you would intervene in his disturbed mind and show him the hope that can only be found in you," one speaker asked God, holding back tears. *"We pray for your miraculous work to be evident in him, and in spite of him."* (abcnews.com – Feb 16, 2018)

What a bold prayer! Jesus taught us to "...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) Bitterness and rage has no place in the Christian's heart. Prayer is the key. Peace is the goal. Changed lives is the hope.





OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome** Greet each child
- Devotion:** Foster the Holy Spirit's Presence: Song –Prayer
- Topic:** Love Your Enemies
- Main Text:** Matthew 5:43-46; Luke 6:27-36
- Central focus:** God commands us to love our enemies
- Golden Text:** Mathew 5:44 - But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Learn present Golden Text:

Memorization activity:

Read it	Record/write it	Recite it
Register/hear it	Rehearse it	Relate/share it

INTRODUCTION

The Imaginative Learner

Why do I need to know this lesson?



This month we focus on God the father. In addition to loving Him (The Lord our God) with all our heart and soul and mind we are commanded to love our neighbour as ourselves. This neighbour may very well be an enemy. And we must love them anyway. Our topic today is, "Love your enemies".

One of the commands that Jesus gave his people when he was on earth is that they must love their enemies. This is like one of the hardest thing to do here on earth. *It is easy to love people who show love to us—friends; But Imagine loving someone who wants bad to happen to you or who does bad things to you. That is indeed hard but it is a command.*

The story is told of a woman who was held captive along with her brother by gunmen. Her brother was then slain before her eyes. Somehow she escaped and later became a nurse.

One day she was working at the hospital she was stunned to find that the same man who had killed her brother had been captured by the police and brought to the hospital where she worked. He was critically wounded .

As she attended to him Something within her cried out "Vengeance." But a another voice called for her to love.

If this were you, which of the voices would you obey?

The woman obeyed the voice that said 'Love' . So she nursed the man back to health. The recuperated soldier upon recognizing her asked her, "Why didn't you let me die?" Her answer was, "I am a follower of Him who said, 'Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you'"...

Adapted: <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/82036/christian-witness-by-sermon-central>

To have outward concern for those who would do us wrong doesn't come naturally. It's natural to want to get back at those who hurt you. It only seems natural to hate the person who murdered her brother. But we are called to do something far greater than what comes naturally. We are commanded not only to forgive those who mistreat us, but we are instructed to love them as well.

This lesson is very important for you to know as it is a commandment from our Lord. Though all enemies are bad we must love them any way. This lesson will provide practical helps concerning how to love your enemies.

The topics to be covered are:

- Who is an enemy
- How to detect an enemy
- How to treat an enemy

BODY

The Analytic Learner

What do I need to know?



- **Who is an enemy**

An enemy is an individual who does not love you and whose intent is to hurt you, whether physical or emotionally.

An enemy can sometimes act like a friend but the real intent is to hurt you and sometime the enemy does not hide.

You don't have to do someone anything for the him/her to become your enemy and you so you cannot avoid having enemies. People will become your enemies even because you do good. However you can avoid being an enemy to any one.

All enemies are bad and whereas we cannot force them to be our friends, we must love them any way.

- **Some ways to detect your enemy**

⇒ People who talk negatively about you in a destructive manner. Friends may have constructive criticism for you, but their ultimate goal is to help you. An enemy will use destructive talk with the sole purpose of making you feel worse or bringing you down. For instance, a friend might say, "You look nice today, but have you ever considered wearing your hair a different way?" An enemy would say, "Your hair is ugly, and you can't do anything to change it."

⇒ People who gossips about you. People who whisper behind your back, spreading malicious rumors or letting out your darkest secrets, are not your friends. If you find someone is gossiping about you, they're probably your enemy. For instance, maybe you told someone you considered a friend about something that was going on at home. You asked them to keep it a secret, but they went out and told as many people as they could. In this case, the gossip is true, but they betrayed your trust.

⇒ People who cannot rejoice at your success and have pleasure in your failure. An enemy hates to see when you are successful at anything. They do not celebrate with you when you win a race, score "A"s on a test, or you are elected as monitor of the class.

⇒ People who tell lies on you. People who make up lies because they want you to be punished. For instance, they spread a rumor that you cheated when you really didn't.

⇒ People who see your danger and did not warn you. Enemies will see a danger and instead of giving you an alert so you can avoid the danger they wait until you are hurt. Sometime they will have a good laugh at your demise

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?

• How to treat our enemies

In His great Sermon on the Mount Jesus called His disciples to be agents of peace in this world: He said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven” (Matthew 5:9–12).

Later in the same sermon he commands the crowds listening to him to love their enemies. By so doing Jesus was creating a new standard for relationships. When they respond in this loving way to their enemies they will have a new status -That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven (verse 45). Jesus pointed out three counter responses that his followers must have to the negative behaviour of their enemies.. The were to:

1. Bless them that curse you

The word bless means to speak well of or ‘speak well to:’ – not to curse again or to slander, but to speak of those things which we can commend in an enemy; or, if there is nothing that we can commend, to say nothing about him.”

Ref: Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

When we bless someone, we refrain from cursing him. We bless with our lips, by what we say, but our blessings of others need to come from the heart; not only from our lips. Psalm 62:4 warns us not to behave like the wicked, when they bless others: “They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly.

Actually, the command to bless others even though they may not seem worthy of our blessing is to be found throughout the Bible.

- ⇒ But I say to you, love your enemies, Bless those who curse you; do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew: 5:44; Luke 6:27-28).
- ⇒ “Bless those who persecute you; Bless and do not curse... Repay no one evil for evil... If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves... If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:14-21)
- ⇒ Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure...”1 Corinthians 4:12
- ⇒ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”1 Peter 3:9

Ref: <https://www.eternalgod.org/q-a-7781/#:~:text=Blessing%20would%20mean%20not%20to%20slander%20our%20enemies,%282%20Timothy%202%3A17-18%2C%2020-21%3B%204%3A14-15%3B%201%20Timothy%201%3A18-20%29.>

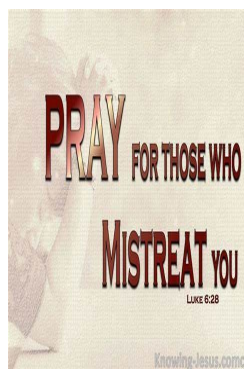


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BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



- **How to treat our enemies (cont'd)**

2. Do good to them that hate you,

Jesus commands us to do good to them that hate us. This is also not easy. According to Proverbs 25:21–22 and Romans 12:14-20, the Lord would have us treat our enemies with kindness and generosity: Repay no one evil for evil... If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves... If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” The Proverbs passage adds: , and the LORD will reward you.” This passage states the kingdom truth that the way to deal with an enemy is to do him good.

The idea is that under the heat and pressure of applied kindness, the person will feel ashamed, regret his actions, and repent. The goal of treating our enemies with kindness is to bring them to a place of conviction about their wrongdoing and, thus, cause them to repent.

3. Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

The word despitefully means to show malice of hatred toward another. It means to be motivated by spite. A spite is a deliberate attempt to be cruel

Anyone can love those who love them (Matthew 5:46; Luke 6:33), but it is difficult to love someone who despitefully persecutes you. However we can conquer by praying for our enemies.

We can always pray for our enemies because praying is an act of mercy. Praying is loving, as our Heavenly Father loves. When all else fails, you can always look to God for guidance.

Prayer can help us to become extraordinarily patient and kind;

When we bless, do good and pray for our enemies we are obeying God’s commandment and become more like him (Matt 5:45; Luke 6:35–36). This pleases God.

BODY

The Dynamic Learner

What can I do with what I have learnt?

(Application)



Jesus shows God's love to all people— friends or enemies. He is expecting his disciples to reflect his character and exhibit this same indiscriminating love for both friends and enemies.

Jesus is teaching us that we must live by a higher standard than what the world expects—a standard that is impossible for us to attain by our own efforts. It's only through the power of God's Spirit that His people can truly love and pray for those who intend to do them harm (Romans 12:14-21).

Now, for each situation below decide what you should do according to Jesus.
[Go through each situation and let the students answer each question]

- ⇒ Someone yells at you. [Speak kindly to them anyway.]
- ⇒ Some one tries to bully you or hits you. [Don't hit back, just walk away and get a teacher to help you.]
- ⇒ Someone who told a lie on you asks you for something that you can spare. [Give it to them]
- ⇒ Someone criticises you:

CONCLUSION

Today's lesson is about loving your enemies.

An enemy is an individual who does not love you and whose intent is to hurt you, whether physical or emotionally

It's natural to want to get back at those who hurt you. It only seems natural to hate the person who hurt us but we are called to do something far greater than what comes naturally. We are commanded not only to forgive those who mistreat us, but we are instructed to love them as well.

Jesu commands us to love our enemies Love your enemies, You are to bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you;

Treating our enemies with unexpected love and generosity will have a disarming and discomfoting effect, with the potential of leading them to remorse, repentance, and salvation in Jesus Christ.

God wants us to love our enemies so that we may be His children.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge...

1. According to the lesson what action must we do to show our love for our enemies [**ble**ss them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you; and **pray** for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;]
2. An enemy is an individual who does not love you and whose intention it is always to [(a) correct you ; (b) hurt you; (c) bless you]

Psychomotor Domain – Skills... (What the students should do to reinforce what they have learnt.)

Recite Golden Text

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Affective Domain- Attitudes - (What the students should feel /experience.)

How does today's lesson make you feel?

What attitude or behavior does it make you want to change?

Today we should feel willing to love our enemies.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to experience this feeling and to change any attitude or behavior that this lesson features as being displeasing to Him.

Prayer

Next lesson

Activity: Unscrambling

The following activity is the command of Jesus to love our enemies. In each case we are to respond positively to a negative behaviour from our enemies.

What should you do to them that curse you, hate you and despitefully use you and persecute you?

The enemies negative behaviors	Positive responses (scrambled)	Answer
⇒ curse you	E S S B L	
⇒ hate you,	O O G D	
⇒ despitefully use you, and persecute you;	R P Y A	

Activity: Unscrambling

The following activity is the command of Jesus to love our enemies. In each case we are to respond positively to a negative behaviour from our enemies.

What should you do to them that curse you, hate you and despitefully use you and persecute you?

The enemies' negative behaviours	Our positive responses (scrambled)	Answer
curse you	E S S B L	BLESS
hate you	O O G D	GOOD
despitefully use you, and persecute you;	R P Y A	PRAY