



Lesson 13

Love Your Enemies

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>The Good Samaritan</p> <p><i>Luke 10:25-37</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name tags• Snacks• How Are You Feeling? emoji chart• A Bible
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."</p> <p><i>Romans 5:8, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive God's love for others.</p>	

Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, "**Do you think it is easy to forgive someone who has treated you badly? Why do you think that is?**"

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Small Group Game: No Room for Hatred

Preparation: Create a sign that says HATE, and attach it to string so it can hang like a necklace

Have the children stand in a circle and hold hands. One of the children will remain outside of the circle with the sign on their chest that says hate. The child outside the circle will try to enter the circle, while the other children must hold hands tightly and close spaces so that the child who is outside cannot enter. See if the group can keep hatred out of the circle for a minute, then switch who is on the outside. Play several rounds.

Ask, "**Was this a difficult challenge? Based on this activity, what do you think is more powerful, love or hatred?**"

Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

Life Application Activity

Do you think the Samaritan had warm, fuzzy feelings toward the man who was attacked by robbers? How did he show love toward him?

Take student responses.

Biblical love is an action, not a feeling. How can we show love in the following situations?

- When a sibling takes a toy.
- When someone gets you into trouble at school.
- When someone doesn't want to play with you on the playground or sit with you at lunch.
- When there is pushing or shoving.
- When classmates are budging in line.
- When someone steals your tickets at club.
- When someone takes your seat in class.
- When your friends pretend that they don't know you.

Take student responses.

That all sounds difficult to do, doesn't it? To love in this kind of way, we need to first receive God's love for us so we can give it to others. Did you know that God loved YOU, died on a cross for you, even while you were stealing, lying, or ignoring God! It's that kind of love that empowers us to show love to others in that same way.

Receive the Gift!

Service: Freely giving what God has given to us.

In Luke 6:32-36, Jesus says, **"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.**

"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." (NLT)

What kind of love do children of God Most High display?

Take student responses.

Pray a blessing over the students for this kind of love to give others:

{Insert name}, **you are a child of God Most High. Your Father in Heaven is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked, and by his strength, you can be good to them and love even your enemies. And your reward shall be very great!**

Bible Verse Game

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." *Romans 5:8, New Living Translation*

Reflection

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift can I receive from God?
2. How can this gift impact my life?