



Jesus is Kind – Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

God Statement: Jesus is Our Example

KEY VERSE: “I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you.”
(John 13:15, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Kind

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is kind!

SAY:

Close your eyes for a moment. Now think about things or people that you love. Okay, open your eyes! What did you think of? **Let kids share.** Those are all great examples of things or people you love! What makes you love them? **Let kids share.**

Today, we’re going to see another example Jesus gave us of how to live. Jesus shows us how to love EVERYONE! Jesus is kind and He wants us to be kind too! Let’s say, “Jesus is kind!” together. Jesus is kind! That means Jesus loves even those people who are mean or who don’t like Him. Some people were pretty mean to Jesus when He was on earth,

but He was still kind and loving! Do you think that was easy? **Let kids respond – no.** No, it definitely wasn't, but God helped him. Do you think it will be easy for you to always love people who are mean or don't like you? **Let kids respond.** No, but God helps us too! Let's make a craft as we think about this!

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Heart Flip Craft!

Supplies: Paper hearts, smiles, frowns, God loves us sticker, love your enemies

Directions: Pass out one heart per child. Give them one sticker that says "God loves us all" and have them place it in the center of the heart. Have them place 4-5 smile stickers on that side of the heart. Then give them a "love your enemies" sticker and have them place it on the back of the heart. Have the kids place 4-5 frown faces on the back.



Say: *Today we will learn about how God loves us and how He wants us to love everyone, even those we might not like or people who may not be nice to us. Before we jump into our lesson, let's create a craft to remind us to love others!*

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

***** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.*****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you.”
(John 13:15, NIRV)**

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ******

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY’S WORSHIP SONGS:

- My Feet are on the Rock
- Nobody
- Closing: The Lord is My Salvation

****** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ******

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Jesus is Kind – Love Your Enemies

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

******After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.******

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: *Jesus Loves cards, markers/pens*

Jesus really is kind. He loves everyone so much, and He wants us to love others too! Jesus tells us to love our enemies. He also tells us to love our neighbors. That means Jesus wants us to love EVERYONE. Do you think that it will be easy to love and be kind to everyone? What about those people who hurt us or are mean to us? ***Let kids respond – no.***

It's definitely not easy to love our enemies, but we have Jesus to help us! And sometimes, loving our enemies can be doing a small act of kindness for someone we would not normally do something for. It could be writing a note of encouragement or drawing a picture and giving it to someone.

Take a moment and close your eyes. Let's ask God to show us who we need to love.
Pray: God, please show us who we need to love this week. Help us to love our enemies and our neighbors and even our family even when it's hard. Amen.

JESUS LOVES CARD ACTIVITY:

Whoever popped into your head, take one of these cards and write their name down or draw a picture of them next to where it says "Jesus loves ____". Then, think of ways you can love them this week and write/draw that on the card. ***Let kids respond on the cards for a few moments quietly.***

Your challenge is to take this card home and use it as a reminder to love that person well this week - that's what Jesus does, and Jesus is our example!

Close in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – SDC ORPHANetwork Project

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

What an amazing opportunity we have to serve children in Nicaragua! Can someone raise your hand and tell me what that opportunity is (*What's our mission focus for Summer Day Camp*)? **Let kids respond.** We are partnering with ORPHANetwork to raise money for a multi-purpose classroom with a mini library where children can study and learn.

The children of ORPHANetwork do not have access to the resources that are available to us that help us stay healthy, have an education, and access to job skills training preparing them for future economic self-sufficiency. You can help be a part of ORPHANetwork's mission of breaking cycles of poverty by helping us reach our goal! Let's take time today to pray over O-Network.

Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for O-Network.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you know that Jesus loves you, and may you share that love with everyone around you this week!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story:** Matthew 5:38-48
 - a. **How does God say we should treat people who maybe don't treat us so well or are different from us?** (He says we should love them and show them kindness!)
 - b. **Should we only love our family, best friends, and people who are nice to us?** (No, we should love everyone and treat all others with kindness, even if they are different from us or don't always treat us with the same kindness. That's how Jesus loved and we want to try to love the same way.)
3. **Close your eyes and think of someone in your life who is so easy to love. Ask God to send some love to that person! Now close your eyes and think of someone who it may be harder to love because maybe they aren't always so nice to you. Ask God to send that person some love too!**
4. **It can be harder to show that love and kindness to those who are different from us or don't always treat us so well. Did you notice that? But, that's how we show the special kind of love that Jesus teaches us and shows us.**

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Matthew 5: 38-42**
 - a. **When someone wrongs us or treats us poorly, how should we react to them or treat them? Should we get back at them and wrong them too?** (We should go above and beyond to continue to treat them with love and kindness. We should not seek revenge and wrong them or treat them poorly.)
3. **Read scripture: Matthew 5: 43-48**
 - a. **How does God say we should treat our enemies?** (We should love them and treat them with kindness.)
4. **Close your eyes and think of someone in your life who is so easy to love. Send some love to that person! Now close your eyes and think of someone who it may be harder to love because maybe they aren't always so nice to you. Send that person some love too!**
5. **How did it feel to send loving wishes to a person in your life who is easy to love? How did it feel to send loving wishes to a person who isn't always the nicest to you?**

It can be harder to show that love and kindness to those who are different from us or don't always treat us so well, but that's how we show the special kind of love that Jesus teaches us and shows us.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: “Is It Kind?” Smile/Frown Game

Supplies: laminated smile and frown

Directions: place the frown on one side of the room and the smile at the other. As you read the statements below, have children run to the smile if it is a way we can love our enemies and to the frown if it is not.

Say: *Today we learned that we need to love our enemies! God asks us to love others. Let’s see if we know some ways to love our enemies. When I read out each statement run to the smile if it is a way you can love others and run to the frown if it is not.*

1. Praying for someone who hurt me
2. Throwing a rock at someone who was mean to me
3. Asking God to help the person who was mean to me
4. Hurting someone back that did something hurtful to me
5. Doing something kind for someone I do not like.
6. Asking God to help my heart and to help me love others

****add additional examples if needed****

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.