

# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

## Week 8: Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-36) Preschool Lesson

### To the Teacher:

*I recently played a game of Uno with some other adults on a staff retreat and before getting started they asked me what my house rules were for the game. I said that they were just the normal ones to which they replied, "That's what everybody says!" I quickly found out that my "normal rules" were MUCH different than theirs. This is similar to what Jesus is talking about in this passage. The Jewish people of Jesus' day thought that they were living life as a community by God's "normal rules" but Jesus illustrates in this passage that God has something much different in mind for His people. Where my example breaks down is that Jesus was giving His listeners more than specific rules for specific situations, instead He was offering examples of how God's people should act in all situations of life. You can help our kids to see that Jesus isn't giving them specific rules as much as what it means to live life in God's Kingdom instead of the world.*

**Big Idea and Missio Basic:** This world is not perfect but Jesus give us the ability by his Spirit to live very differently in the world.

**Starter Ideas:** You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Play dough hearts: Have the kids make hearts out of the play dough. As they play with their play dough, talk to the kids about Jesus giving us the ability to love.
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. Decorate a heart: Have the kids decorate a heart with sticks, colors, etc. As the kids color and decorate their heart, talk to them about loving everybody, even those that are unkind to us.

**Circle Time:** When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

**Welcome Song:** (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

**Welcome, [Name]**  
**Welcome, [Name]**

**Hear God's Word**

**Hear God's Word**

**We can trust in Jesus.**

**We can trust in Jesus.**

**Welcome, friends.**

**Welcome, friends.**

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

**Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."**

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched!

**Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

### **Prayer Time:**

**Praying for Others:** Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them.

Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

**Praying Together:** *Jesus, thank You that you show us how to live a life like Yours and that you forgive us when we are not able to. We pray that you help us be kind to people and love people even when they are mean.*

**Story:** from Luke 6:27-36

[READ]

*One day Jesus was teaching His disciples and this is what He said to them:*

*I want you to hear what I am about to say so that you can be the way that God made you to be. Show love to people that are mean to you and do good things for everybody, even the people that don't like you. I want you to hope for good things to happen to people, even the people that hope that bad things will happen to you. Say prayers for people that hurt you. These are hard things to do, but they show everybody that you trust God. Let me give you an example of what I am talking about: If someone hits you in the face, you shouldn't run away or hit back, instead show them that your God gives you the strength to let them hit you again. If someone takes your jacket from you, don't let them stop there, tell them that they can have your shirt also*

*because they must need it more than you do. In fact, give to everyone that asks you to give and if they steal instead of asking don't make them give back what they took. Treat other people the same way that you want them to treat you.*

*Loving people that love you is easy, so is doing nice things for people who do nice things back to you. It is also easy to let someone borrow something if you know they will pay you back. People who live evil lives can do all of those nice things too. What I want you to do is love the people that are mean to you, do good things for everyone, and give generously without asking for anything back. You actually will receive a great reward if you do this because you will be acting like the children of God. He is kind to people who are ungrateful and do evil things. So all of you should show kindness, just like God shows kindness.*

Have kids cheer, **“Love your enemy! Do good! Give to others!”**

[Some things to remember as you are talking to the kids.]

- Jesus isn't giving specific rules to follow, but examples of how God's Kingdom works differently than the world
  - Jesus ended this teaching by saying that God is kind to people even when they don't deserve it. Jesus doesn't give these rules so that you will feel bad when you make a mistake but so that you can be more like Him when you live the way that God made you to live.
- Jesus focuses on three actions of someone who lives in the Kingdom of God:
  - Love your enemies (people who are mean to you)
  - Do good: to everyone, at all times
  - Give generously

**Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch!** Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

**BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

**Speak:** *How can you show the rules of God's Kingdom by being kind to someone this week who is not always kind to you?*

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that 2-4's playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for your word, The Bible.**

**Thank you that Jesus brings healing to the broken places.**

**Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.**