

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 8: Love Your Enemies (from Luke 6:27-36)

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 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 conveying in this passage. The Jewish people of Jesus' day thought 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, but rather 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:** Life in God's Kingdom looks very different than life in the world.
- **Question:** Have you ever played a game with someone who thought the rules were different than you did?
- **Starter:** Give a personal example of a time when you experienced the rules of a game being different than you expected.
In the same way, Jesus gave much different rules for life than his listeners expected, and probably much different than we expect today!

OR you may choose to play this video from the Bible Project: [Gospel of the Kingdom](#)

- **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 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 for you. It is also easy to let someone borrow something if you know they will pay you back. Even 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 and do good things without asking for good things 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."

[Some Things to Point Out]

- Jesus isn't giving specific rules to follow, but examples of how God's Kingdom works differently than the world
 - Ask: Does it ever feel like people make rules just so you can't have fun or do what you want?
 - Say: Jesus shares the rules of God's Kingdom so you *can* have fun with God and praise Him forever!
 - Ask: What are some of the rules Jesus gave?
 - Ask: How do these rules seem different than people normally act?
 - Ask: How would you feel if someone always treated you the way Jesus said people should treat others?
 - Ask: How would other people feel if you treated them the way Jesus said to treat them?
- Jesus ended his teaching by saying God is kind to people, even when they don't deserve it. Jesus doesn't give these rules so you will feel bad when you make a mistake, but so you can be more like Him and live the way God made you to live.
- Jesus focuses on three actions of someone living in God's Kingdom:
 - Love your enemies (people who are mean to you)
 - Do good: to everyone, at all times
 - Give generously
 - Ask: Which of these are hardest for you to do?

- Ask: What is one thing you could do this week to live more like Jesus says to live?

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You that Jesus has shown us how to live a life like Yours, and that You forgive us when we are not able to. We pray Your Spirit will help us to live in a way that honors You and Your Kingdom. Jesus, You are a great Teacher! Amen.

- **Craft: ...**

Follow this [Link](#) for craft, activity, and coloring sheet ideas.

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Today we learned how people act in God's Kingdom.

How can you show what God's Kingdom is like by **blessing** someone this week who is not always nice to you, or who cannot do something to pay you back?

Do you know someone who does not follow Jesus that you can **speak** to this week about the good news of God's Kingdom?