

Jesus' teaching



Bible verses:

Luke 6:27-36

Love your enemies



Aim:

To know the mercy of God through how we treat others



Today's fruit:

Self-control



In today's session we will look at some of the most challenging teaching Jesus shared with us.

In a world full of revenge and hatred, Jesus calls his followers to love their enemies. We'll think about what that means for us and how we can take the first steps to loving others in the way Jesus does.

If you are going to love your enemies, you will need self-control from God.

Each child will need:

- *Heroes and Villains* handout (one set per group)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To cut up and shuffle the *Heroes and Villains* cards
- Today's fruit sign: *Self-control*
- A flip chart and pens
- Memory verse poster from Session One



Start it

Say:

In our session today we are thinking about how we should treat those who are unkind to us. Jesus describes these people as our enemies. In films and books, the enemy is often known as

the villain of the story. To start off our session, see if you can match the hero with their villain.

The children can work in whatever group size you prefer, and each group will need a set of Hero/Villain cards. The aim of the game is to see who can match the hero to the villain.

The film titles are included in the answer chart below so that you can give the children clues if required.

HERO	VILLAIN	FILM TITLE
Shrek	Lord Farquaad	<i>Shrek</i>
Aladdin	Jafar	<i>Aladdin</i>
Ginger	Mrs Tweedy	<i>Chicken Run</i>
Alice	Queen of Hearts	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
Simba	Scar	<i>The Lion King</i>
Princess Aurora	Maleficent	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i>
Ariel	Ursula	<i>The Little Mermaid</i>
Asha	King Magnifico	<i>Wish</i>
Lightning McQueen	Miles Axlerod	<i>Cars 2</i>
Woody	Lotso	<i>Toy Story 3</i>
Anna	Prince Hans	<i>Frozen</i>
Rapunzel	Mother Gothel	<i>Tangled</i>
Belle	Gaston	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>
Judy Hopps	Dawn Bellwether	<i>Zootopia</i>
Peter Pan	Captain Hook	<i>Peter Pan</i>
Bob Parr (Captain Incredible)	Syndrome	<i>The Incredibles</i>
Gru*	Vector	<i>Despicable Me</i>

*Children may wish to debate this – if a reformed supervillain can now be viewed as a hero – or perhaps as an anti-hero.

Sing it

Display the *Self-control* sign.

Say:

In our Bible story today Jesus challenges us to show self-control in the way we deal with other people. This can be very difficult to do if we are angry or upset. The Cheeky Pandas remind us how to show self-control in these circumstances.

Song

'The Self-Control Song' by Cheeky Pandas (3:01)

Tell it

Ask:

Think about the villains we looked at in our Start It activity. Are there any villains that you feel sorry for? If so, why?

Say:

Although it does not excuse their behaviour, some of the movie villains have a reason for treating other people the way they do. And sometimes they have never been taught how to treat others with respect. In our Bible story today Jesus teaches us to show love to others, even those we would consider to be our enemies.

Ask:

- You don't need to say their name, but do you have anyone that might be called an enemy to you?
- Why would you describe them this way?
- How do you normally react when someone does something unkind to you, or you fall out with them?

Say:

When someone hurts us, we may want to take revenge or have nothing to do with them. In Luke 6:27-36 Jesus suggests a different way for us to treat our enemies.

Read through the Scripture passage once from start to finish and discuss with the children their initial reaction to what Jesus had to say. What are they surprised by? What do they find difficult?

Read:

'I say to you who are listening to me, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Ask God to bless those who say bad things to you. Pray for those who are cruel to you. If anyone slaps you on one cheek, let him slap the other cheek too.

If someone takes your coat, do not stop him from taking your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you. When a person takes something that is yours, don't ask for it back. Do for other people what you want them to do for you.

'If you love only those who love you, should you get some special praise for doing that? No! Even sinners love the people who love them! If you do good only to those who do good to you, should you get some special praise for doing that? No! Even sinners do that!

'If you lend things to people, always hoping to get something back, should you get some special praise for that? No! Even sinners lend to other sinners so that they can get back the same amount!

'So love your enemies. Do good to them, and lend to them without hoping to get anything back. If you do these things, you will have a great reward. You will be sons of the Most High God. Yes, because God is kind even to people who are ungrateful and full of sin. Show mercy just as your Father shows mercy.'

(Luke 6:27-36 ICB)

Read through the passage again, taking time for the children to identify specific instructions given by Jesus. Jot these down on a flip chart.

Encourage the children to read through the instructions and discuss what following them might look like in their everyday lives. Incorporate the following points into the discussion.

Discussion points

- God expects us to treat all people with respect because all people are made in his image.
- This makes us stand out as disciples because we live knowing that every person has value.
- This becomes challenging when people do not treat us in the way we treat them – but you are **not** expected to become a doormat.
- We always tell trusted adults if something unkind is taking place because we must remain safe and look after ourselves too.
- Let's take from this passage our ability to pray for those who harm others; this is our invisible weapon and action we **can** take.

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about how we should treat our enemies?
- What would the world be like if everyone treated their enemies this way? How would things be different?

Say:

We have thought about what the world would be like if we all loved our enemies, but now let's bring our thoughts closer to home. We're going to watch a clip that gives us an example of how to take the first step to love our enemies. As you watch, think of a situation where you could take the first step to love someone who has hurt you in the past.

Video

***Love Your Enemies* by Sermon4Kids Plus** uploaded by St Andrews Episcopal Church Valparaiso IN (2:01)



Ask:

- Why did Mia change her mind about hanging out with Chloe?
- What had Sarah done in the past to upset Mia?
- What did Chloe suggest Mia should do to take the first step to love Sarah?

Ask the children to think of the person they mentioned as an enemy earlier in the session. They don't need to say their name or the details of the situation but discuss with the children how they would feel about taking the first step to pray for that person.

Action it

Say:

At the beginning of our session, we thought about many different villains found in animated films. As we discussed before, some of these villains have been treated badly by others and are full of anger, ready for revenge. We're going to watch a clip from *Moana* where the person who appears to be the enemy is actually the one who has been treated badly. Moana herself chooses to show kindness and does the right thing by returning what was stolen.

Video

Moana returns the heart of Te Fiti (Moana) by Disney uploaded by Cartoon Clips HD (3:26)

Ask:

What happens when Moana shows kindness in response to Te Fiti's anger?

Ask the children to choose an animated villain and rewrite their story following the teaching of Jesus. They can do this by writing the main points of the story or creating a storyboard.

Once they have chosen their animated villain, they need to think of a point in the story where things would have changed if the villain had been shown kindness and love.

Here are some examples to get the children thinking:

- What would have happened if King Triton, in *The Little Mermaid*, had shown Ursula forgiveness and love when she tried to take his trident?
- How could Shrek and Fiona have reacted to Lord Farquaad instead of allowing the dragon to gobble him up?

The aim of the activity is for the children to recreate the revenge moment of an animated film that they know and love, and transform it into a story where the enemy is shown love instead of hate.

When the children have recreated their story, they can share it with the rest of the group.

Pray it

Say:

We will be using our memory verse for this month in each of our prayer times together. It reminds us that whatever emotions we are feeling, we can bring them to God.

Display the memory verse and read it through together.

Memory verse

**'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.**

Listen to me now.

Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 ICB)

Say:

When someone hurts or upsets us, it can be extremely difficult to show them love instead of hate. Earlier in the session we talked about prayer as a way of taking the first step to loving our enemies. As the music plays, spend time with God praying for the person that you see as your enemy.

Listen

'Reckless Love' by Cory Asbury (official lyric video) by Kids Version (2:59)

When the music ends bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus' teaching

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 6:27-36



Aim:
To know the mercy of God through how we treat others



Today's fruit:
Self-control



Discover

This week we have tackled a challenging topic. It can be really hard to love those that we consider to be our enemies.

Watch the clip to discover more about how we can show love to others when we don't want to.

Love Your Enemies (The SuperBook Show)
by SuperBook



Watch

Arrange a film night with the people at home. Choose a film mentioned in our session, a film with heroes and villains. You could even watch *Moana*.

Share with everyone what you have discovered about loving our enemies.



Song for the week

'The Self-Control Song' by Cheeky Pandas



Memory verse

'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 /CB)

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Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

Jesus' teaching



Bible verses:
Luke 6:27-36



Aim:
To learn about self-control



Today's fruit:
Self-control



Memory verse

'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 *ICB*)



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Start it

Today we are going to hear how Jesus wants us to treat people we don't get on with.

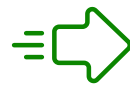


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 6:27-36.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Lots of films have heroes and villains / goodies and baddies in them. Can you name some?
- How do you treat your friends?
- How do you treat the people you don't get on with?
- Why was Jesus kind to everyone?
- Have you ever had to control your feelings? This is called self-control.



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Can you be patient in a game of 'What's the time, Mr Wolf'? (Although if you want to reach the target first, you need self-control.)
- Play musical statues and control your movements.
- In pairs, act out lending something to a friend; show to a small audience.
- Find a partner and mime something you enjoy doing, then find another when the leader says 'change'.
- Your challenge is to meet as many people as you can, get them to guess what you enjoy and make friends with them all.