



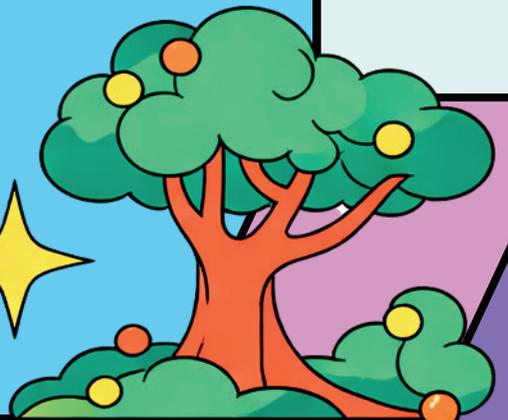
HOPE KIDS



Small Groups



UPSIDE DOWN - MARCH - WEEK 3



Story Recap

Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus was teaching a crowd of people and told them something very different from what they were used to hearing. People believed if someone hurt you, you should hurt them back. But Jesus said instead of getting even, we should choose kindness.

He taught that if someone is unkind to you, you can still respond with love. He even said to pray for your enemies and do good to those who don't treat you well.

Jesus explained that loving only your friends is easy, but loving people who are hard to love shows that we are following Him. This is how we live differently and show God's love to others.

Note overview

Book: Matthew

Chapter: 5

Verse: 38–48

Old or New Testament: New Testament

What did you learn about God today?

- God loves everyone.
- Jesus teaches us a better way to live
- God wants us to show His love to others even people we don't like.

What is today's Bottom Line?

Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

What do I think God wants me to do?

- Be kind even when others are not
- Forgive people who hurt me
- Pray for people I don't like
- Choose love instead of getting even

Ice breaker Question

Ask your small group-

**Are there people in your life that are
hard to love?**

Examples to help:

- A bully at school.
- A mean classmate.
- A sibling.
- A family member.

Prayer time

- 1. Give every kid an index card and a pencil or pen.**
- 2. Let the kids take a minute to choose one category that they really need God's help with right now.**
- 3. Invite them to sit and reflect.**
- 4. Encourage them to pray to God silently, out loud, or write or draw a prayer on the index card.**
5. "God, thank You for loving us perfectly, even when we don't deserve it. It's really hard to love our enemies, but we want to be like You. Please help us with the people we prayed for today. Give us Your strength and Your love so we can love like Jesus even when it's hard. We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Activity

Pass out the Print out
"Coloring page"

What You Do:

1. Pass out coloring page
2. While kids color if possible, ask them questions about the story or even their life!

Memory Verse Activity

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves

Philippians 2:3

1. Write out the memory verse on a white board then have all the kids say it together.
2. Slowly remove a few of the words from the verse and have them recite the whole verse with the missing words.
3. Keep doing this until you do not have any more words left on the white board and have them recite the whole verse

Discussion questions!

1. Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you. Why do you think Jesus wants us to respond to mean or hurtful people with love instead of revenge?
2. Going the “extra mile” was a choice the person could make to show kindness. What might it look like for you to “go the extra mile” for someone who isn’t kind to you?
3. It’s easy to love people who love us back, but Jesus asks for more. What’s the difference between the kind of love Jesus talked about and the kind of love most people show?

Discussion questions!

4. Jesus said that when we love our enemies, we show we are God's children. How can showing love to difficult people help others see what God is like?
5. Loving others like Jesus can feel impossible sometimes. When it's really hard to be kind or forgiving, what can you do to let God help you love that person anyway?

Question Dice

Grab your question dice and say -

Alright everyone, we're going to play a game with our question dice. We're going to take turns rolling the dice, and whatever question you land on, you get to answer it.

While someone is answering, let's all listen and not interrupt, because we want to put others first.

After one person answers, we'll go to the next person and keep taking turns until everyone has had a chance.

Remember, this is a safe place, so there are no wrong answers. Let's have fun and learn together!"