

City LG - February 24-25, 2018

Bible Story: Mercy, Mercy Me (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-48*

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who aren't kind to you.

Memory Verse: "Do to others as you want them to do to you." *Luke 6:31, NIV*

WORSHIP: "No Other Love" and "Get Down"

"Hello everyone! Welcome to the City! We are so excited you are here today, and I can't wait to worship Jesus with you today! Everybody stand up and let's sing. We have two songs today. Our first song is called 'No Other Love', and it is all about Jesus loving us so very much. Let's sing!"

"Our next song is called 'Get Down', and it's all about us looking to God when we have some bad days that get us down. When we get down, He lifts us up! So, let me see those dance moves today! Here we go!"

LARGE GROUP:

"What's going on, friends? My name is [your name], and I am so excited you came to hang out with us today. Raise your hand if you know what an enemy is. Who or what is an enemy? (*Pause for responses.*) These are all really, really good answers. We're talking about kindness this month. Let's see if we can think of a definition of enemy that has to do with kindness."

"How about this? An enemy can be anyone it's hard to show kindness to. An enemy can be your older brother who picks on you sometimes. An enemy can be a kid on the playground who thinks he knows everything about everything. An enemy could be a football coach who never lets you play the position you want to play."

"An enemy doesn't have to be an evil 'bad guy' like we see in the movies. An enemy can be anyone it's hard to be kind to. Let's play a game to help us understand that it's harder to love our enemies than it is to love our family and friends! Here's how to play..."

GAME: Kindness Toss

Supplies Needed: Bucket of Foam Hearts, 3 Buckets in 3 different sizes, 3 Signs taped to bins ("Friends": 10 points, "Family": 25 points, "Enemies": 50 points)

How to Play: Set up three buckets increasing distances apart. Place the buckets in this order: the first bucket 'Friends,' the second bucket, 'Family,' and the last bucket, 'Enemies.' Take turns (Boys vs. Girls) throwing the foam hearts into each bucket. First team to score 100 Points, WINS! Explain that it's easy to love our family and friends but a little bit harder to love our enemies.

Say: "It was pretty easy to get the bean bag in the first two buckets but harder to get it in the last one. It's the same with loving people. It's easy for us to love our friends and family but a little harder to love our enemies but we can still do it."

“When it’s hard to do something, we need to find help, right? A great place to find some help when it comes to how to show kindness is God’s Word—the Bible!”

“You might not know it, but the Bible has lots to say about how we can respond to our enemies. It does. In fact, this was something Jesus told His followers in a teaching we call the Sermon on the Mount. Let’s check it out together.”

Open Bible and turn to Matthew 5:43-44. Read directly from the Bible, as it is important for children to see you doing so.

CG: Matthew 5:43-44 Slide

“You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.” But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you” (NirV).

“Wow. I mean, WOW, WOW, WOW. Jesus just told us to love our enemies. That sounds a bit crazy, right? I mean, why would we be nice to someone who isn’t nice to us? Why would God ask us to do that?”

“I think it’s because God knows that kindness is powerful. When we see a need and do something about it, that’s kindness. A great way that we can meet a need that we know about is through giving in our offering. It’s offering time!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them. And we can help make this happen, for as little as the cost of one candy bar a day! Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor
New Lenox: Daniel
Orland Park: Rose

CG: Picture of Child

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now while this video plays, and place it here *(show offering basket).*”

CG: Offering Time Video (Runtime: 1:30)

“Thank you City for showing your kindness during offering time. Let’s take a look at this week’s Bible lesson...”

CG: Week 4 Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:13)

“It’s easy for us to be kind to people who are kind to us. In fact, Jesus says that even the worst of the worst people do that. But Jesus calls us to something different, something greater, something that, if we can get it right, can point people to Him! Let’s look at our Bottom Line

together.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Be kind to people who aren’t kind to you. This doesn’t mean you have to be best friends with the bully, but try being kind to them and be a friend. You never know what might happen if you choose to treat them like you’d want to be treated. This isn’t easy, though, so how about we talk to God about it? Let’s pray together.”

Pray: “God, sometimes it feels like we’re kind over and over again without anyone being kind back to us. Help us not to look at kindness that way. Help us look at kindness like You do. You love us and treat us with kindness no matter what. Help us to be kind to everyone—even to our enemies. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“Whoa. This whole ‘love your enemies’ thing is a game changer. It’s super easy for most of us to be kind to most people. But that doesn’t make us any different from anyone else. If we want to be more like Jesus, we’ll figure out how we can show kindness to the people it’s hard to be kind to.”

“You’ll talk more about how you can be kind to people who aren’t kind to you in Small Group. I hope you guys have fun together. I’ve had such a great time talking about what God says about kindness this month. I can’t wait until next week when we start something brand new. See you then!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.