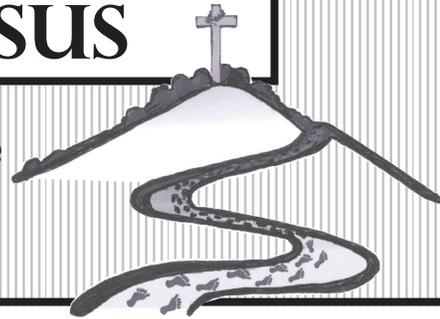


TO BE LIKE JESUS

Parent Resource Page Lesson 26: LOVING YOUR ENEMIES



Themes:

- Jesus commands us to love others—including our enemies.
- We can love our enemies by forgiving them, praying for them, and by doing good to them.

Scripture:

Luke 6:32-33, 35; Matthew 5:43-45a

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:44-45a

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

Take it to heart: Tell your parents about the story of Corrie Ten Boom. Have you ever said that you hated someone? Why did you say it? What kinds of feelings were you expressing? Did you ever want to get revenge on someone who is mean to you? Why? Is this okay with Jesus? Why not? What if someone had done something terrible to you, then is it okay? Why not? Did Corrie Ten Boom feel hatred for the man who had betrayed her family? Why? How did she express this? Did she instantly repent of these feelings? Why not? Why is it so hard to love our enemies? What helped her to finally come to a place where she could love her enemy? What did she recognize about her own heart? Have you ever had a similar experience with someone? Are you still struggling to love them? What thoughts or feelings might be keeping you from loving them?

Read Luke 6:35 and Matthew 5:43-45a. Can you think of specific person that is very hard for you to love or someone who may be considered an “enemy”? You may not have yet reached the point where you feel you are loving them, however, are there ways that you could begin to pray for them this week? Can you also pray that Jesus would change your heart toward this person? Are there any other ways that you could practically show love towards them and do good to them? Even very small things to begin with?

Pray about it: Choose one or two “enemies” to pray for this week. Confess any hatred you may feel. If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation remember that you were once His enemy. While you were still a sinner, He loved you and died for you on the cross to make you His friend. Thank Jesus for His wonderful love! Ask Him to give you a heart to love other sinners—even mean people.