

Illustration by Keith Neill

Jesus Says, “Love Your Enemies”

Jesus walked up the mountainside and sat down. Crowds of people followed him there. The disciples came to Jesus and listened as he taught them how God’s people should live. This is what Jesus taught them about their enemies.

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Jesus said that if you only love people who already love you, don’t expect God to reward you for that. Even people outside God’s family love the friends who love them.

But if you love those who don’t love God and who don’t love you, you are showing that you are children of your heavenly Father.

Jesus reminded his disciples that God makes the sun shine for everybody, not just for his children. God sends the rain to make food grow for everybody.

So if you are part of God’s family, love the way God loves. That means loving your enemies as well as loving the family of God.

Bible story based on Matthew 5:43–48.



Jesus Helps Me

Use the pictures and the words to fill in the boxes.

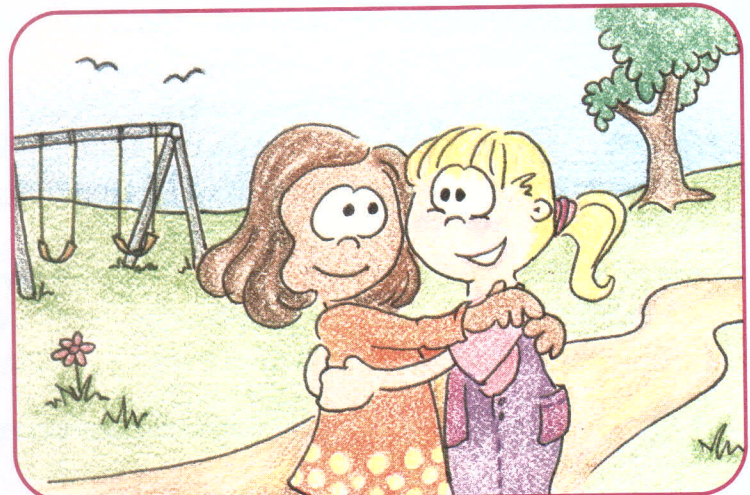


love

forgive



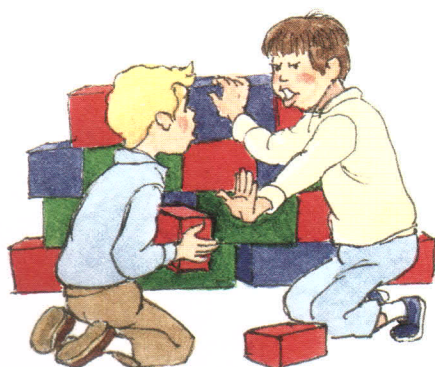
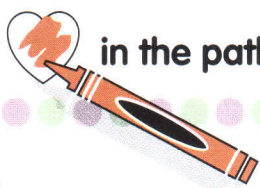
forgive



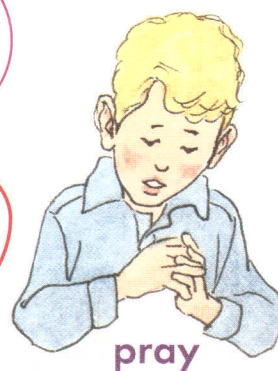
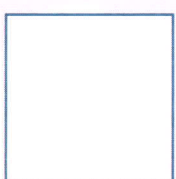
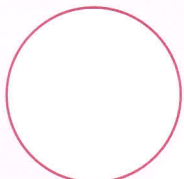
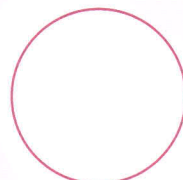
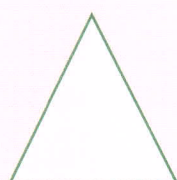
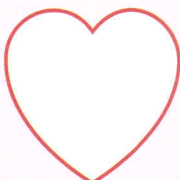
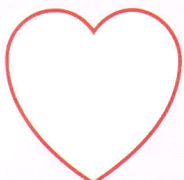
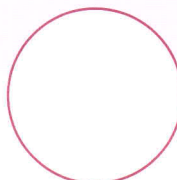
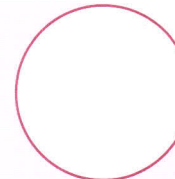
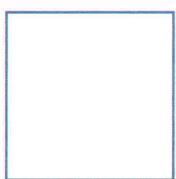
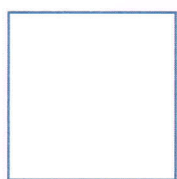
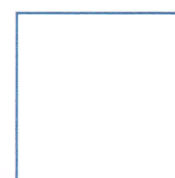
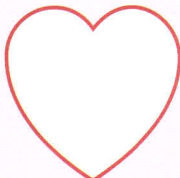
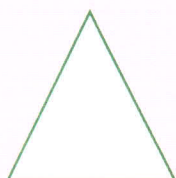
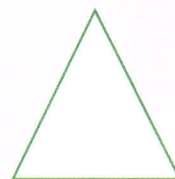
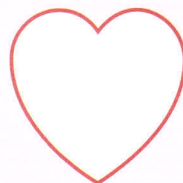
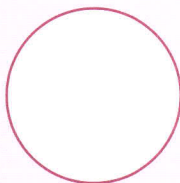
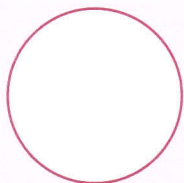
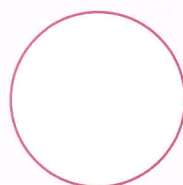
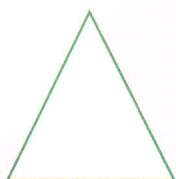
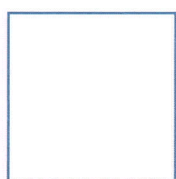
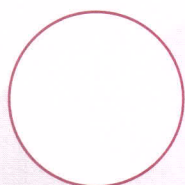
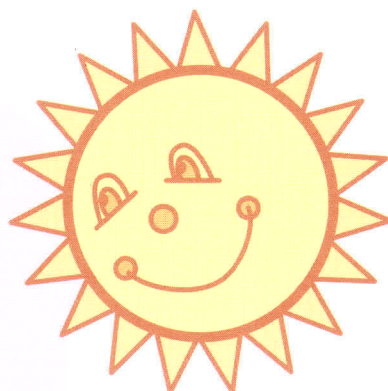
love

I Will Pray for My Enemies

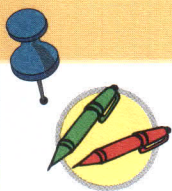
Color the hearts in the path to find out what Jesus says you must do.



START



pray



Memory Work: 1 John 3:1a, 1 John 4:10a, Galatians 5:22a, Jeremiah 29:12b, Matthew 22:37a, 1 John 4:7a

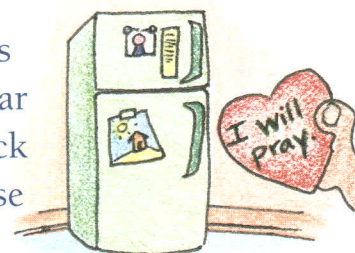
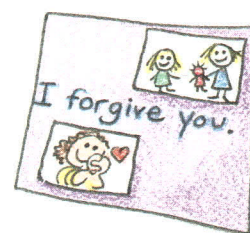
Dear Family,

In the lesson today, the children learned that Jesus taught his followers to love their enemies and pray for them. God is love and he wants his children to love the way he does. The children learned to ask the Holy Spirit for the help they need to forgive their enemies and show kindness to them.

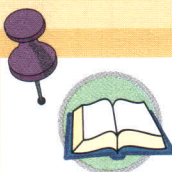


Projects for you & your child this week . . .

- Make a love and forgiveness poster. Print *I forgive you* in the middle of a large sheet of paper. Draw a picture each time you forgive someone. Draw a picture each time you show kindness when someone is mean to you.
- Make a heart magnet. Cut out a paper heart. Print the words *I will pray* on the heart. Laminate the heart or cover with clear adhesive. Put a magnet strip (found at craft stores) on the back of the heart and put the heart magnet on the refrigerator. Use it to remind you to pray for your enemies.



Illustrations by Christine Patete



Worship together

Read Romans 5:6–10 from a child-friendly version of the Bible. Be ready to explain the main idea of this passage with simple words your child can understand.

Thank God for showing his great love in sending the Savior. Thank him that we are no longer his enemies; he has brought us into his family and we are children of the heavenly Father.

Pray for those who may be causing difficulties for any family member. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive them.