

**Focus:** Jesus Teaches About Loving Others

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD-Toddlers 20 Favorite Bible Songs  
Bible: Children's Everyday Bible  
Equal/Just-Fair Picture  
Bean bags and baskets

**Gathering** (have children sit on the floor-"Criss-Cross Applesauce")

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked Jesus*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Loving God, help us to learn more about your Son Jesus so that we can tell others the good news of your love. In the name of Jesus we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Isn't He Wonderful?*, track: 9, from Toddler 20 Favorite Bible Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.)

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful,  
wonderful!  
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!  
Eyes have seen, ears have heard

It's recorded in God's Word  
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!

Repeat all

**Memory Verse**

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Treat others in the same way you want them to treat you.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *This phrase is called part of the Greatest Commandment. Love God and Love Others. Love is not just a warm fuzzy feeling, although it can be that too. Love is putting someone else's needs before yours. The Great Commandment--also called The Golden Rule--is love in action; treating others well, because others are as important as you are. Jesus said that God's children need to love and care for each other and other's would know we believe in Jesus by our actions.*

**Gospel Story**

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** Children’s Everyday Bible, pp. 242, *Love Your Enemies*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Discussion Starters:**

- *Why did the people follow Jesus?*
- *Did Jesus surprise them with his teachings?*
- *What surprised them?*
- *Has anyone heard of the Great Commandment? –Love God and love others as you would like to be loved.*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*Last week we learned that if we forgive others, God will forgive us. This week we hear Jesus say to love our enemies. God loves all people so if we are children of God, we also should love all people. Even if people do bad things, we are still called to love them because God created them. They are children of God too. It is hard to love those who do not like us or are mean to us. But God wants us to show respect and politeness when we talk to them. Maybe using kind words will surprise them, just like the people in today’s reading were surprised; maybe they will think differently and act differently.*

*We think every one should be treated fairly and equally, but God does not treat us fairly. We don’t always act the way we should or behave well. God is kind to all people, even those who are selfish and difficult.*

Use the **Just-Fair Picture** to show that if each person gets an equal share someone is still not able to see, but if they give more to the shorter one and none to the tallest-they can all see.

**Gospel Activity**Activity 1:**Love Your Enemies:**

*Jesus wants us to love everyone, even the people who are mean to us. Just like in today’s Gospel. Jesus wants us to surprise others. Now, I am going to say a situation and I want you to help me decide what you should do according to Jesus.*

Go through each situation below and let the kids answer each question:

- *Someone yells at you. Answer: Speak kindly to them anyway.*
- *Someone hits you. Answer: Don’t hit back, just walk away and get a teacher to help you.*

- *Someone takes something that is yours. Answer: Give them whatever they need. Don't steal something else from them.*
- *Someone asks you to share your toy. Answer: Give it to them.*

*Now I know what you might be thinking: Why should I be nice to someone who is mean to me? Well, here's why: Have you ever done anything wrong before? Allow them to share a few times when they have messed up. Even though you have made mistakes before I still love you, your family loves you, and Jesus still loves you. So when someone makes a mistake we should still love them.*

*What do you think? Can you love your enemies? How can you show love to those who are mean to you?*

### Activity 2:

#### **Love Your Enemies-Bean Bag Toss**

Set up three baskets in increasing distances from a starting line (location of your choice). The closest basket is 'Family,' the second basket, 'Friends,' and the last basket, 'Enemies.' Take turns throwing the bean bag into each bucket. 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.*

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

#### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated?  
Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to be strong and courageous?  
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, helps us to do the right thing, especially when it is hard?*

#### **Sending Forth**

*Say: Remember our love for others this week. Seek out someone who looks a bit sad and ask them if there is anything you can do to make them happier.*

#### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "Father, We Thank Thee" track 13 from Toddler 20 Favorite Songs while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.