

City LG-February 15th-16th, 2020

Bible Story: Never Gonna Give You Up (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

Bottom Line: Love others because they matter to God.

Memory Verse: *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NirV)*

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “We are Royals” and “Every Beat”

Worship Leader prays...

“Hello, everyone! It’s so good to see you today. Today we’re looking at something really important that Jesus taught us. Jesus taught this one day as He was speaking to a crowd of people on a mountainside.

“Jesus taught about a lot of different topics that day. One of the things he talked about was probably really challenging for everyone who heard it. Jesus said this:

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-45 (NirV) and read.

“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. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven.”

“Wow. It’s easy to love your friends . . . but it’s not so easy to love your enemies!

“When we think about enemies, usually we think about movies, cartoons, or comic books. We think about superheroes and the villains they fight.

CG: Heroes and Villains JPEGs

“Like Batman and . . . *(pause for response)* the Joker.

“Ariel and . . . *(pause for response)* Ursula.

“Buzz Lightyear and . . . *(pause for response)* The Evil Emperor Zurg.

“Every major hero has an enemy—a villain who’s trying to take over the universe or do something else really mean or evil. The story follows the hero as they battle this enemy and defeat the enemy’s evil plans. In all of these situations, the enemy is a bad guy who’s trying to do bad things.

“But . . . do WE have enemies? I mean, I don’t know about you, but I don’t often have people like the Joker or Ursula showing up at my house, threatening to destroy the universe.

“But I DO sometimes have someone say or do something mean to me. And sometimes, if I’m really honest, I want to do something mean back. When someone hurts my feelings or makes me mad, there’s part of me that wants to get back at them.”

“Listen again to what Jesus said that day on the mountainside.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:43-45 (NirV) and read.

“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. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven.”

“Jesus’ words must have caught everyone by surprise. When someone is mean to us, we FEEL like we should be mean back. But Jesus said we should make a different choice. We should choose love instead. That’s what today’s video is all about. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:30)

“You may never be best friends with the people who are mean to you. But you’ll always be glad you made the choice to show love. You’ll feel good because you know that you’re following what Jesus told you to do. You’ll feel good because you’re showing people that God’s love is for everybody. You’ll feel good because you’re **treating others the way you want to be treated**—just like God wants you to. When we love people who are mean to us, we shine the light of God’s love into the world.

“Say this with me:

CG: Bottom Line

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Love others because they matter to God.”

“Okay, now think about someone who has been mean to you. Think about that person in your head, and let’s say this again to remind us how to treat them.”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Love others because they matter to God.”

“Great job! God wants us to be kind to everyone, because EVERYONE matters to Him.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray: “Dear God, thank You for teaching us to love our enemies. Thank you for reminding us that everyone matters to You—no matter how they might act and no matter what they might say. Help us remember to show kindness and to pray for those who are mean to us. We want to share Your love with everyone we meet. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“When you feel like getting even, show kindness instead. Act in a way that shows you love the person. When you do, you’re showing God’s love for everyone to see.

“Remember, you never know what that person who’s mean to you might be going through. They might have trouble at home or at school. It could be that love is what they need the most. So **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God**. Before we head to Small Group, and talk about that some more, let’s worship God with our offering!”

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 an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor New Lenox: Daniel Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Here’s a picture of some homes in Nairobi!”

CG: Kenyan Homes JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*).”

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 2:00)

Dismiss to Small Groups