

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 183: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
MATTHEW 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies. Bless those who say bad things about you, do good things for those who hate you, and pray for those who do bad things to you and treat you badly. If you do this, you will be children who are truly like your Father in heaven. He lets the sun rise for all people, whether they are good or bad. He sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong. If you love only those who love you, why should you get a reward for that? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than anyone else. Even the people who don't know God are nice to their friends. What I am saying is that you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

183. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 5:43-48



“...Love your enemies. Bless those who say bad things about you, do good things for those who hate you, and pray for those who do bad things to you and treat you badly..” **MATTHEW 5:44**

183. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

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MEMORY VERSE:

“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you...”

MATTHEW 5:44

Review Questions

True or False

1. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
2. But I say to you, HATE your enemies .
3. Love your enemies, bless those who curse you.
4. Do good to those who hate you, pray for those who do bad things to you and treat you badly.
5. If you do these things, you will children who are not like your Father in heaven.

Questions

1. What did Jesus say to do to your enemies and people who hate you?
2. What happens if you love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who do bad things to you and treat you badly? Who will you be like?
3. Should we love only those people who love us?
4. Are you better than anyone else (even the people who aren’t Christians) if you are only nice to your friends?
5. What should we be, just like our Father in Heaven is? Perfect?

Lesson 183 Activity & Discussion

Which One Should I Love?

Ask for two volunteers from the class. Give one a small prize in front of the rest of the class. Next, lightly step on the other child's toe (make sure to do this very lightly, it is for illustration, not to really hurt them).

Ask the class to tell you which of the children has more reason to love you, the child with the prize or the child with the hurt toe.

Reward the child you stepped on for being a good sport by giving him a prize as well. Explain that even though it is difficult, we need to love those who do not treat us very nicely. If we are acting like loving people only to those who love us, we are no different than the world. If we, who belong to Jesus, love our enemies, we immediately make visible, through love, God's invisible kingdom. It is mysterious, and it is awesome. [God gives us true love for others.](#)

It is His love flowing out of us. It is a miracle. It happens every day, all day, in God's kingdom. People see this love and wonder where it comes from; it points them to Jesus. There are many people who testify that they came to know Jesus because some Christian that they tried to be hateful and mean to just kept on loving them. It was God's love poured out in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is an exciting way to live. His love is the only thing that can really conquer our enemies.

How do we get that love in us? First, we have to have Jesus as our Savior. He gives us new life so we can step into God's kingdom as God's child. Then we ask Him for His love. It is very simple. We ask, and He pours it out in our hearts. When you feel like being mean, or yelling back, or hurting back, you must stop and ask God to pour His love out into your heart by His Holy Spirit. [God gives us true love for others.](#)

We all know we are not perfect. And we certainly are not perfect in love. But because we are in Jesus, we wear His righteousness (rightness) and that makes us perfect to God. He sees the rightness and perfection of Jesus when He looks at us. We can love perfectly too. We can even love our enemies when we ask God to pour His love into our hearts. Love is the way of God's kingdom, and we can have it just by asking. [God gives us true love for others.](#)

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking God to fill each heart with His love by His Holy Spirit. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them the opportunity to do so.