

Sunday School Lesson Outline



Lesson: Loving enemies

Passage: Matthew 5:38-48

Big Idea: Jesus' followers love all people, like our Father in Heaven.

Main Aim: Be like our Father in Heaven by loving even those who don't love us.

Key verses: Matthew 5:43-45

Please pray for the lesson preparation, that God's word would feed us and the children.

Laptop/tablet + speaker: You will need to bring a device to play media.

If needed, Jonny can provide **a laptop and Bluetooth speaker**. 😊

Additional resources for prep: Grace Group booklets or talk to Jonny if needed.

Sermon on the Mount Overview

Matthew is a book which makes disciples, who go and make disciples, who make more disciples...

This teaching from Jesus is about how his disciples will live the "blessed" life: the good life.

So, each week we'll highlight - this *isn't* how we live to become disciples.

Instead, *this is* how followers of Jesus will live as Jesus' already-saved people.

Passage overview – Talk outline on page 3.

1. Followers of Jesus are generous to our enemies. 5:38-42

We won't always take the revenge when we can.

We will be incredibly generous, even to people who don't like us.

2. Followers of Jesus love our enemies. 5:43-48

We won't hate our enemies.

We will love our enemies. Just like God loves his enemies.

Everyone else in the world hates enemies and loves friends, but we're different, We love everyone.

Main Aim/Application - For them then & us now.

Realise that following Jesus means we will show great love to all people.

Just like Jesus, he showed incredible love to his friends as well as to his enemies. We're different.

Groups

At CW – Prepare for **Sailors and Officers**, taught together.

At GR & EC – Prepare for either **Sailors or Officers**, taught separately.

Ages
Sailors: Age 3 to Year 2
Officers: Years 3-6

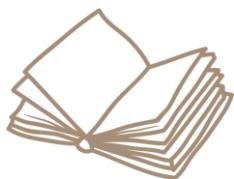
Lesson Overview

Get Going
~3 min + Song



Welcome & Pray
Intro Idea
Song

Bible Talk
~10 mins



The Big Idea
The Main Aim

Heart & Hands
~30 mins



Craft/Worksheet
Further teaching
Memory verse

Catechisms
~10 mins

The New City
Catechism for Kids



Practice Together

Land the Lesson



Recap
Pray
Extra Fun Time



Get Going

Welcome, Pray, Introduction idea & Song

At GR and EC the Sailor Leader will lead the “Get Going” section, by default.

Welcome and connect briefly with the children

- Ask a fun question. Something like:
Was your week good or bad? Show me with thumbs up/down/halfway. Why?
How was your week out of 10? Show me with fingers. Why?
What's the most fun/boring thing that happened? The best food you ate? Smelliest smell?

Prayer by the leader

- Help us to listen carefully to what God has to say to us today, and to have fun.

Set expectations:

- Rules:
 - We listen to the leader.
 - We love our neighbour.
- We're here to learn about Jesus and have fun.
- If you need the toilet, let us know and we'll take you.

Intro Idea - Introduce the “Big Idea” of the passage with Intro Powerpoint slides.

- Ask the children – Match the child with the Dad!
 - Tom Hanks, Jackie Chan, Will Smith
 - Grace Church – We're like our Father in Heaven.
 - Jesus says we will be like our Father in Heaven. Our Father in Heaven loves everyone, not just his friends, we'll be like that too.

Sing - If needed, talk through the words and actions before singing.

NEW SONG – Your Love

Choose one of the following versions (or something else!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znPfF7AY66E>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qb31RRg_Eo



Bible Talk

Teaching the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Using the ICB translation: International Children's Bible.

Available at: [Bible Gateway](#)

Keep it clear and snappy.

Centre the talk on the Big Idea and the Main Aim.

Have a Bible open throughout to show that we're teaching from God's word, and not from our heads.

Think of ways to make the Bible talk engaging. Ideas for this are below.

Key Verses – Matthew 5:43-45

Sin

In Sunday school, we have two ways of talking about sin.

Sin is the bad things we do, say, think and feel. With actions. This will be extra useful this week.

Sin is "Shove off God", "I'm in charge", "No to your rule." Classic.

Get to Jesus

Often in the Sermon on the Mount, it's Jesus who does these things the best.

We'll make sure to mention him in our talk, and fact that he's saved his followers.

Neighbour

It would be good to explain what a neighbour is: not just the person next door, the people all around us, and people everywhere.

Lesson Points

Introduction

Jesus has saved us, so we live for him.

Some people might know - what we do, say, think and feel matters.

Obviously, we need to love people, be kind to people.

But we might wonder, who should we be loving to?

We should love people who love us back. Of course that's right.

But we might not be sure about people who are nasty to us.

We might wonder if we really need to love them too.

Jesus will tell us how his rescued followers live...

1. Followers of Jesus love our enemies.

5:43-44

In Jesus' time, people were saying,

"Love your neighbour and hate your enemy".

But that's not right.

Jesus says the right thing.

We will love our friends. AND love our enemies.

He even tells us to pray for those who hurt us!

Children, people love their friends. Is that normal, or weird?

Followers of Jesus love their enemies too. Is that normal or weird?

2. This means we'll be like our Father in heaven.

5:45

Loving everyone, not just our friends might seem weird.

But actually, God loves everyone, not just his friends.

Who likes the sunshine?

God makes the sun shine on good people and bad people, on his friends and his enemies.

Who likes the rain? Maybe we don't but we need it for water and to grow food.

God makes the rain fall on good people and bad people, on his friends and his enemies.

So, loving everyone, not just our friends, is what God does.

We can be like our Father in heaven, as we love all people.

3. Enemies of Jesus only love their friends.

5:46-47

Everyone else loves their friends but doesn't love their enemies.

Tax collectors, the worst people in Jesus' day.

Even they love their friends! That's easy.

Pagans. Non-believers in God.

Even they love their friends. That's easy!

4. But we should be like our Father in heaven.

5:48

But Jesus called us to be different: salt and light.

To love people who don't love us.

We're supposed to be like our Heavenly Father, not like everyone else!

Conclusion

Some people know that we need to love our friends, of course!

But Jesus says, we also need to love everyone!

Maybe there are some mean people at school who are difficult to love.

Maybe there are some people who we feel like being nasty to, because they're nasty to us!

But followers of Jesus are like our Father in Heaven.

God loved us, and loves all people.

Jesus always loved everyone, even his enemies.

He came to rescue his enemies, he forgave them.

We can be like Jesus, like our Heavenly Father, as we love all people.

Brief application - The Main Aim expanded.

- **Sailors** State the Main Aim application and expand it a bit.

When we're at home/school/church or when we're sad/happy/tired...

This is how it's right to think/act/talk/feel.

Give a concrete example:

“When we feel x, we can remember y”

- **Officers** Ask questions to arrive at the Main aim application.
How does this help us think/act/talk/feel differently?
What about at home/school/church or when we're sad/happy/tired?
Give a concrete example:
“When we feel x, we can remember y”

Teaching ideas - Ask Jonny if you'd like more ideas.

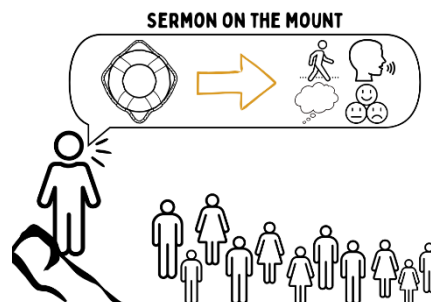
- Use the *Sermon on the Mount* series teaching image.
Laminated and in the box.

“Jesus’ rescued people live in this way.”

It's about the things we do, say, think and feel.

(Sin is the bad things we do, say, think and feel

But Jesus will tell us the good things we do as his followers.)



- Use the teaching images.

Lay them out as you explain. They can help children track through the talk.

- Act something out.

Could you act out someone being nasty and someone being nice to someone?

A follower of Jesus would love both people in return. That's weird.

- Use actions and a catch phrase. For example: “We don't fear man (*trebling action and point at children*), instead we fear God! (*Tremble and point up*).”

Followers of Jesus. *Walking action*

Love our friends. *Point around the room.*

And we EVEN LOVE OUR ENEMIES! *Nasty faces.*

Just like our Father in heaven. *Point up.*

- Feel free to show this video, they might watch it a lot this term!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tLMF6shOLE>

- **Sailors - More question ideas:** What noise/ smell do you think it made? How many stars did he see? Have you ever seen that before? How did he feel? What face would she have made?
- **Sailors - More teaching ideas:** Make actions to copy at certain points, act it out with costumes and scenery, go for a walk around the room, use Lego/Playmobile figures.
- **Officers - More question ideas:** Why do you think he did that? What did she get right/ wrong? What would you do in his situation?
- **Officers - More teaching ideas:** Act it out, have them draw scenes, shout out the best thing they see in the passage, make a puppet show using paper and card, go for a walk, use Lego.



Heart and Hands

More on the Big Idea & Main Aim with activities.

Table Activities - Craft or worksheet - Spares go to the Eltham service.

- **Sailors** Prayer Craft.
Cut, stick, fasten, colour. Chat about how it relates to the teaching point.
- **Officers** Prayer Sheet.
*This is a guided Bible study, to help them learn how Bible studies work.
The sheet progresses from easy questions to harder questions.
Help them find answers in the Bible and think about them.*

The New City
Catechism

for Kids



New City Catechism

Practice Together

What is this? [Tim Keller Introduces the New City Catechism](#)

Why do this? [Why We Should Catechize Our Children](#)

This week - Question 24.

- Open up the Catechism of the week.
Practice saying it with the children. Some might have learnt it at home to say it with less help.
Talk about difficult words and ideas.
- **Sailors** Use Children's Mode and the songs to learn.
Choose the right question from the following playlist:
[Q1 What is Our Only Hope in Life and Death?](#)
- **Officers** Use Children's Mode where necessary.
You could make up a rhyme or rap to learn it.
Or make up a game of trying to remember it: Get in a circle, say one word each.



Land the lesson

Bring everything together: Recap, prayer and game.

Recap - Use the craft/ worksheet to remind them of the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Pray - Encourage the children to pray with you about the Big Idea and Main Aim.
They could **thank/praise God** for it or **ask for help** in believing it.

- **Sailors** You could suggest "Popcorn prayers" - really short prayers.
Or "Arrow prayers" - We all shoot up like an arrow at the end.
Or you could try the idea we use with Officers.

- **Officers** You could pass an object, like a Bible, around the room.
When a child receives the Bible, they can choose to pray in their head or aloud.

Game idea - Check the OneDrive

Time fillers, Games and Music - Check the OneDrive

- I often play something from: <https://www.youtube.com/@thebiggeststory>
- A Spotify playlist of Sunday School songs can be found in the Term Overview Document.

Sign out - Give each family a Take Home Sheet

- Sign out with Check-In.