

# Jesus Teaches about Loving Others

*Gen. 45:3–11, 15*  
*Ps. 37:1–11, 39–40*  
*1 Cor. 15:35–38, 42–50*  
**Luke 6:27–38**

**Goal for the Session**

*Children will listen to Jesus teach about how to treat others and consider how to act in loving and forgiving ways in their own relationships.*

## ■ P R E P A R I N G F O R T H E S E S S I O N

### Focus on Luke 6:27–38

**WHAT is important to know?**

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Dena L. Williams

Matthew’s Jesus preaches righteousness. Luke’s Jesus affirms these behaviors and attitudes, but preaches that enemies, thieves, and beggars are, as well, to be blessed (*eulogeōu*), a word not used in the parallel passage in Matthew. The writer of Luke seems to summarize the message of his Jesus in verses 35 and 36. Luke’s Jesus seeks to bring forth the kingdom of God and persuasively invites hearers to live into the future to which God calls them.

**WHERE is God in these words?**

— From “Theological Perspective,” Susan E. Hylén

Luke portrays the disciples both as poor and as those who truly possess a superabundance, who have been given all the good things of God’s reign. When the teachings of the Sermon on the Plain are not grounded in the disciple’s identity as God’s child, they become an onerous list of ethical demands that do not further justice and wholeness. When the disciple understands his actions as flowing out of God’s abundance, to which he belongs and which belongs to him, turning the other cheek becomes an act of resistance to evil that has the power to transform others and the world.

**SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?**

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Charles Bugg

Luke reminds us that the coming of the Christ into the world makes a difference. In fact, the inbreaking of God into human history makes all the difference in the way we respond to other people. Here is the dilemma. How do we move from the natural instinct to match blow for blow and word for word? To put it another way, how do we live our lives responding with grace and kindness, instead of reacting with words or actions that seek to answer hurt with more hurt? According to Luke, Jesus indicates that followers of Christ remember how God responds to us. “Be merciful,” Jesus states, “just as the Father is merciful.”

**NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?**

— From “Homiletical Perspective,” Vaughn Crowe-Tipton

Focus on the grace and transformation necessary for us to live out the radical faith Jesus demands. In other words, the “great reward” we receive is not full pockets, garages, or self-esteem, but who we become in the process. Jesus knows full well that we will never love our enemies without an amazing grace that transforms us and makes us different than we are. What changes us and allows us to love is a grace greater than our sin, our best intentions, or even our hard work. Grace transforms us, even as we resist. Jesus points his followers then and now toward a narrow and difficult path illuminated only by grace, but it is one that rewards us in ways we can hardly imagine.

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 6:27–38**

## Focus on Your Teaching

Even young learners can start making connections between discipleship and the way they behave. We can point to simple actions that will be familiar to the children, such as helping others, and affirm that such things identify us as followers of Jesus. The ways of Jesus will not be new ideas for most children, as they already know about kindness and compassion. Emphasize that these loving actions show Christ's way of love, so that the children can make the connection. Be ready to point out when you see a child behaving like Jesus.

*Loving God, be present in all my interactions this week. Help me to discern how I might follow your loving and forgiving ways with others. Amen.*

**YOU WILL NEED**

- green cloth
- battery-powered candle
- offering plate
- Bible
- blanket or beach towels
- copies of Resource Sheet 1, 2
- colored pencils, scissors
- Color Pack 25, 31
- 1" x 8½" green paper strip, tape, paper chain started Dec. 2
- Singing the Feast*, 2018–2019; CD player
- round white coffee filters, washable markers, spray bottle, water, cookie sheet

**For Responding**

- option 1: *Singing the Feast*, 2018–2019; CD player
- option 2: copies of Resource Sheet 3, Color Pack 26
- option 3: construction paper, pencils, scissors
- option 4: index cards, pens

## LEADING THE SESSION

### GATHERING

*Before the session*, cut out a little book from Resource Sheet 2 (Little Book) and practice folding it.

Greet each child. Invite early arrivals to help you set up the worship center with a green cloth, a battery-powered candle, an offering plate, the paper chain started December 2, and a Bible open to Luke 6.

Gather around the worship space. Light the candle as a reminder of Jesus' presence and pray aloud:

*Help us to follow you, Jesus. Show us the way. Amen.*

Ask a child to collect the offering and then place it next to the candle.

Show Color Pack 25 and point to the first column. Ask:

✠ What acts of kindness did you see at home this week?

Use a pencil to make an X in one square on the graph for every act of kindness mentioned. Repeat for each place mentioned on the graph. Ask a few learners to use markers to color in the boxes with X to make a bar graph. Look at the completed graph and discuss:

✠ Where did we see the most acts of kindness this week?

### EXPLORING

Recall that last week we heard how Jesus went to a plain to teach his followers. Today's Bible reading is a continuation of this teaching. Invite the children to create a plain by spreading out a blanket (or beach towels) and sitting on it. Challenge the children to listen to what Jesus says about treating other people in the Bible story today.

Open your Bible to Luke 6 and say this is where the Bible reading is found. Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 1 (Jesus Teaches about How to Treat Others). Read the text aloud, stopping after the verses as noted below to discuss the questions:

After verses 27–31:

- ✧ What is Jesus telling his followers to do in these verses? What do you think Jesus means by these words? How might Christians today live out these teachings?

After verses 32–34:

- ✧ What is Jesus telling his followers to do in these verses? Whom should we love? Lend to?
- ✧ What do you want to ask Jesus about this advice? Why might it be difficult for Christians to live this way?

After verses 35–38:

- ✧ What does it mean to be “children of God”?
- ✧ How does Jesus describe our reward for living according to the values of God’s kingdom (according to what God says is right and valuable)?

Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 2 (Little Book), scissors, and colored pencils. Show the children how to fold their sheets to make a booklet. Read the pages in unison and then invite learners to illustrate the pages. Form pairs and have learners practice reading their books to one another.

Distribute coffee filters and washable markers. Invite children to flatten and smooth out the filter and make a colorful design on it with markers. Place the filters on a cookie sheet and spray them lightly with water from a spray bottle. Marvel at the way the colors spread out on the coffee filters. Suggest that this is what God’s love is like—it spreads throughout the world and makes it a better place. Leave the filters to dry, then send them home to place in a sunny window.

**You Shall Love the  
Lord Your God**

You shall love the Lord your  
God, alleluia!  
You shall love the Lord your  
God, alleluia!  
With all your heart and soul  
and mind, alleluia!  
With all your heart and soul  
and mind, alleluia!



Read again Luke 6:31. Recall that Jesus said these words to his disciples. Ask:

- ✧ What do you think the world would be like if everyone followed Jesus’ teaching in this verse?

**RESPONDING**

Offer at least two options so children have a choice. One might be more challenging to interest older children who can work on their own.

- 1. Harmony Experience** Children will sing a round and imagine what it means to follow Jesus’ teaching and live in harmony. Play “You Shall Love the Lord Your God” (track 21 on *Singing the Feast*, 2018–2019) and sing it together. Form two groups to sing the song as a round. (Group 1 begins singing. As they sing the third line, Group 2 begins singing with the first line.) Afterward, discuss musical harmony that occurs when a number of musical notes blend together. When we sing together, our different voices blend to create musical harmony. Discuss: How did we achieve musical harmony with

our singing? How is making musical harmony like living in peace with one another? What does it mean to live in harmony? How does Jesus' teaching help us live in this way?

2. **Acts of Amazing Grace** Learners will consider a contemporary example of God's grace in action. Distribute copies of Resource Sheet 3 (Amazing Grace). Ask a volunteer to read the story aloud. Discuss: Why do you think the members of this church made the choices they did? How might have Jesus' teaching in Luke 6 helped them to decide what to do? Show Color Pack 26 and read the question in unison. Discuss with children where in their schools, community, or families they see a need for grace. Brainstorm ways that they might extend God's grace in these situations. Display Color Pack 26 in your learning space as a reminder to do so, and check in with learners from time to time about their acts of grace.
  
3. **Obstacle Course** Children will have fun creating an obstacle course and discussing how to follow Jesus' teachings. Distribute construction paper, pencils, and scissors. Ask children to trace around their feet and cut out two footprints. Invite the group to name ways they can follow Jesus' teaching to treat others as they want to be treated. Write each suggestion on a separate footprint. It's OK to repeat some ideas. Have children take turns creating a path with the footprints. The path could go under tables, over chairs, and around objects. Invite the rest of the group to pretend they are walking in Jesus' footsteps and follow the footprints. When each person gets to the end of the path, he or she shouts, "I am following Jesus."
  
4. **Advice for Challenging Times** Learners will reflect on situations in their lives that call for God's grace. Ask volunteers to tell about times when they were treated unfairly or when they treated someone else unfairly. Be sure to tell a story of your own. Reflect together on what today's verses say about dealing with such difficult situations. Distribute index cards and pens. Invite learners to write a few words of Jesus' advice about dealing with difficult situations on a card to keep in a pocket or in their Bible for future thought and prayer. Gather around the candle and pray aloud: "Lord, thank you for your grace and love, which overflows in our lives. Help us to show love and grace to others in our lives. Amen."

### Kum Ba Yah

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum  
ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum  
ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum  
ba yah!  
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Come by here, my Lord,  
come by here!  
Come by here, my Lord,  
come by here!  
Come by here, my Lord,  
come by here!  
O Lord, come by here!

Jesus went about doing  
good;  
Jesus went about doing  
good.  
He told everyone God is love;  
God cares for you.

### CLOSING

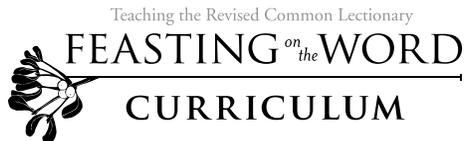
Gather around the worship space. Add a green paper link for Ordinary Time (or Season after the Epiphany) to the church year paper chain.

As your closing prayer, sing together "Kum Ba Yah" (Color Pack 31; track 10 on *Singing the Feast*, 2018–2019).

Say good-bye to each child with this blessing: "(Name), God bless you as you follow in Jesus' ways."

February 24, 2019

Jesus Teaches about  
Loving Others



Multi-Age  
Resource Sheet 1

## Jesus Teaches about How to Treat Others

Luke 6:27-38, Contemporary English Version

<sup>27</sup>This is what I say to all who will listen to me:

Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. <sup>28</sup>Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek. If someone wants to take your coat, don't try to keep back your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you. <sup>31</sup>Treat others just as you want to be treated.

<sup>32</sup>If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that? Even sinners love people who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them.

<sup>34</sup>If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend to sinners because they think they will get it all back.

<sup>35</sup>But love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel. <sup>36</sup>Have pity on others, just as your Father has pity on you.

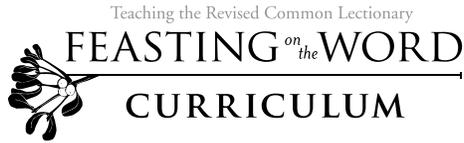
<sup>37</sup>Jesus said:

Don't judge others, and God won't judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God won't be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you. <sup>38</sup>If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated.



February 24, 2019

Jesus Teaches about  
Loving Others



Multi-Age  
Resource Sheet 2

## Little Book

One day Jesus taught his followers about  
how to treat others. This is what he said:

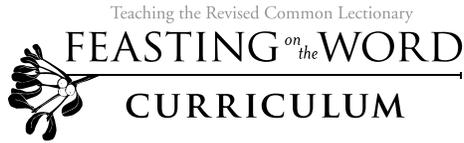
Treat other people the way you want  
to be treated.

Love everyone, even people who are  
mean, just like God does.

Forgive others, just as God forgives you.  
Be kind, just as God is kind.

February 24, 2019

Jesus Teaches about  
Loving Others



Multi-Age  
Resource Sheet 3

## Amazing Grace

On June 17, 2015, members of Emmanuel AME Zion Church in Charleston, South Carolina, experienced a violent tragedy. Nine church members in a Bible study group were killed by a young man who was filled with hatred.

People were heartbroken and angry and grieving. "Why did this happen? What can we do?" they must have wondered.

These church members did not choose to be filled with hatred for the young man who caused such pain. They put their faith and love above hatred. Even though they were hurting and grieving for their friends and loved ones who died, they spoke to the young man at his court hearing. Some said, "I forgive you." Others said, "God have mercy on you."

A year after the shooting, they decided to do something more. They started a program called "Acts of Amazing Grace." They invite people from their church, their town, and the whole country to choose to do acts of God's grace and kindness to help fill the world with goodness instead of hatred.

What act of amazing grace can you do? How will you and your friends choose to make the world a better place?

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear? Psalm 27:1