

# Love Your Enemies: Lesson 1

**SuperTruth:** Nothing can separate me from God.

**SuperVerse:** *Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:39b (NLT)

**Bible Story:** Matthew 26:48–56; Luke 22:47–53, 23:34; John 1:11, 18:1–11; Acts 6:8–15, 7:1–60

## LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Today we begin a new Superbook adventure titled “Love Your Enemies.” It is easy to love friends and family, but what about our enemies? Jesus left us an important and surprising example to follow.

- Chris is on the church’s soccer team and has a shot at making the regional All Stars. When he is harassed for being a Christian, he wants to fight back against his persecutors.
- First, Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to see that when Jesus is arrested, He is still willing to heal a soldier whose ear is cut off by Peter. Next, they see Jesus in agony on the cross, praying, “Father, forgive them.” Then, they witness Stephen quoting Jesus’ words of forgiveness as he is brutally stoned to death. The children learn to trust God when being mocked or persecuted. Returning to the soccer tryouts, Chris helps the boy who mocked him and has an opportunity to talk about Christ.

## SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

**Game:** Carry On! (15 minutes)

*Objective: Play a game to remove obstacles.*

- As believers, we will face many troubles that can trick us into believing we are separated from God. But the truth is that in Christ, we are forever connected to God’s unconditional love.

*Game Instructions:*

- The dominos represent things that may seem to separate us from God and His love—like a fence or wall! Now, in this game, we must remove these things to restore the truth about God’s love!

**Teaching:** Permanent or Temporary? (15 minutes)

*Objective: Discuss God’s love in our lives.*

- Christ’s love is permanently written or poured into our hearts. It cannot be separated, removed or erased. (See Romans 5:5.)

*Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)*

- The craft is the Love Cover Page Challenge. Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Matthew 5:44. Pray a prayer of forgiveness for hurts and offenses. Note the important reminder at the end of the teaching.

**SuperVerse:** Superbook Motions! (5 minutes)

*Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- Paul reassured the persecuted Christians that regardless of the circumstances and situations, even if facing death, nothing could separate them from Christ!
- Divide children into groups. Groups will meet separately and devise motions to act out the verse and say it aloud. Groups will perform the verse for the class. Be sure to clap for each group!

**Prayer:** Committed Prayers (5 minutes)

*Objective: Communicate with God.*

- It is important to stay connected with God in good times and in time of trouble.
- Lead children in a prayer of hope, in times of trouble, in praying with trust and patience.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

**Object Lesson:** Discuss what our focus should be on. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Soccer Activity:** Children work as a team to discuss the Bible Story. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Bible Verse Activity:** Learn a Bible Verse with a group activity. | **Grades 1–6** | 5 min

**Coloring Activity:** Color a scene from the Superbook video. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

**Bible Activity:** Match Bible verses to things that try to separate us from God’s love. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

### Game Materials Needed:

- Game Sign
- At least twenty dominos or one per child, plus extras
- Two jumbo craft sticks
- Optional: double the dominos; see optional ideas for playing
- Optional: two craft sticks
- Painters tape or masking tape
- Timer, such as a stopwatch, clock or watch with second hand, or timer app
- Whiteboard and marker to record times

### Teaching Materials Needed:

- Poster board
- Red and black permanent markers
- Pencil with eraser
- Sticky notes
- chalk
- Bible or device with the Superbook Bible App

### Discipleship Challenge materials:

- Love Cover Page
- Cardstock—1 sheet per child, plus extras
- Pencils
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- GizmoNote (optional take-home note)

### SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible app

### Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bibles or the Superbook Bible app