

Love Your Enemies: Lesson 2

SuperTruth: I will respond in love like Jesus.

SuperVerse: “But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” Matthew 5:44 (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

Game Materials Needed:

- Eight round balloons, plus extras
- Four boxes or containers large enough to hold two balloons
- Permanent marker
- Optional: four sheets of paper and tape

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Persecution Cards
- One sheet of cardstock
- Large towel such as a bath or beach towel
- Six unopened cans of soup, vegetables, fruit, etc.
- Table
- Scissors
- Cellophane tape
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- GizmoNote (optional take-home note)
- Discipleship Challenge materials:**
- Love Cover Page for children who missed Lesson 1
- One sheet of cardstock for each Love Cover Page

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker, or chalkboard and chalk
- Round balloons, one for each team of two children, plus extras
- Timer
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible app
- Whiteboard and marker, or chalkboard and chalk

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

In our last lesson, we learned that nothing can separate us from God. In today’s lesson, we will learn how to respond to enemies like Jesus did!

- 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 praying in agony on the cross, “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.
- In today’s Bible Background video, we’ll learn about what the world was like when Jesus walked the earth.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: The Correct Response (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to respond with love.

- We are going to play a game to respond with love and prayer to any form of persecution that we may face as followers of Christ.

Game Instructions:

- Teams will pass PERSECUTION balloons from the boxes marked OTHERS and respond by passing LOVE and PRAYER balloons from the boxes labeled ME. You will do this by batting the balloons in the air to each other.

Teaching: The Perfect Cover-Up (15 minutes)

Objective: Discuss responding in love as Jesus did.

- Jesus “practiced what He preached.” Actually, you could say that He preached what He practiced! Jesus was the perfect example of how we should speak and act in all circumstances.
- The craft is the Love Cover Page Challenge. Read Matthew 5:44 and Proverbs 10:12 each day. Pray forgiveness for those who may have hurt or offended you. Ask for God’s help to endure and overcome offenses. Extend forgiveness instead of seeking vengeance.

SuperVerse: Superbook Volley (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- Jesus did not seek vengeance when He was persecuted. Instead, He showed love and mercy and prayed for them. As followers of Christ, we are to love like He loves.
- There are two options to choose from. One option is for groups to stand and shout different parts of the verse. The other is to shout words of the verse while batting a balloon back and forth.

Prayer: Loving Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Stephen followed Jesus’ example and responded in love by praying for his enemies as they persecuted and stoned him to death for telling the truth about Jesus. (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60)
- Pray together asking the Holy Spirit to reveal and remove any hurt or bitterness inside.
- Pray together for those who have wronged you in some way.

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

Matching Game: Play a game to match temporary or permanent things. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Tossing Game: Play a game where love triumphs over sin. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

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

Bible Activity: Discuss different responses in Bible stories. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min