

Love Your Enemies: Lesson 3

SuperTruth: Jesus endured persecution to save me.

SuperVerse: *He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.* Isaiah 53:3a (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:

- Four small plastic cups
- Twelve marbles
- Two buckets
- Bible or the Superbook Bible app

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Three Signpost Cards
- Three sheets of card stock or paper
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible app
- GizmoNote (optional take-home note)
- Discipleship Challenge materials:**
- Love Cover Page for children who missed the previous lessons
- Cardstock—1 sheet for each Love Cover Page
- Sample craft made in Lesson 1

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker; or chalkboard and chalk
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- Round balloons—one per two children

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible app

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Jesus endured suffering and death for one reason—to save us. For this, He is worthy of our praise!

- 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.
- Watch the Signposts video to learn more about how Jesus responded to persecution to save us.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Poured Out! (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to remember God’s love and Jesus’ suffering.

- Jesus called God’s plan to save us a “cup of suffering.” Jesus willingly agreed to fulfill God’s plan to save us. By this plan, God poured out His love on us. That is what this game is about!

Game Instructions:

- Teams stand side by side. Players pour marbles from one cup into another. The last player pours out the marbles into a bucket.

Teaching: Our Living Example (15 minutes)

Objective: Discuss how Jesus modeled and provided forgiveness.

- The world notices when Christians show love and mercy if they are hurt! When we choose to respond in love, we become a light in the darkness (John 1:5).

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The craft is the Love Cover Page Challenge. Read Matthew 5:44 and Proverbs 17:9 each day. Write down offenses, struggles or troubles on the page. Write a short prayer asking for God’s strength to help you endure and overcome any offenses; and ask God to help you forgive everyone!

SuperVerse: Superbook Parts (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- Jesus experienced opposition, persecution, troubles, and sorrows. He experienced hurt and disappointment as His closest friends turned their backs on Him in His darkest hour.
- Divide the children into three teams. Assign a number (1–3) to each team. Assign a different line of the SuperVerse to each team to say aloud in order to complete the verse.

Prayer: Acquainted Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Jesus is acquainted with our grief, sorrow and disappointment. He knows everything we are going through because He experienced these things firsthand on the earth.
- With eyes closed, pray silently and tell Jesus about any anxiety, sorrow, suffering, grief, and disappointment you may face. Then ask Jesus to touch you and heal your heart as only He can.

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

Review Game: Play a game to remember the Bible story. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Relay Game: Play a game about being forgiven and set free. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Craft Activity: Make a craft to remember what Jesus did to save us. | **Grades 1–3** | 15 min

Bible Activity: Look up verses about what Jesus endured to save us. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min