

January 31st || Matthew 5:21-48

Main Point: **If You Love Jesus, You WILL Love Other People**

(Try to repeat the main point several times.)

Read Matthew 5:43-48 and ask:

1. Where does the Bible say, "Love your neighbor?"
2. Where does the Bible say, "Hate your enemy?"
3. How do most people treat their friends? Their enemies?
4. How does Jesus call us toward God's perfect standard?

Digging Deeper: Read 1 John 2:9-11 to the kids.

1. What does John mean by light and darkness?
2. Can someone love God and hate people?
3. How do we know if we abide in the light?
4. Can a person filled with hate accurately see God?

John says that if we think we love God but hate other people, we don't really know Jesus. Jesus is Light, but if we hate other people, John says we are still in the darkness.

Example of being in the darkness:

Have the kids get in a circle. Then place one child in the middle and blindfold him/her. Pass the ball around the outside of the circle (probably best to have them hand it to each other) until you say stop. Then the person in the middle guess who has the ball. Even if they claim they can see, they really can't because they are blinded.

The Bible teaches that if we love Jesus, we will love other people. Saying you love Jesus but not having any love for people, is like saying you can see even though you are blindfolded. Jesus preached a Sermon on the Mount, talking about what real righteousness looks like. If God has made someone righteous, they will love other people.

[Make sure you make it clear. We do not become righteous before God by loving other people. We become righteous through Jesus and THEN we will love other people.]

Ask the kids:

1. Do I show that I love God by the way I treat other people?
2. Who is someone I could tell about the love of Jesus?

Driving it

home...



"We love because He first loved us." —1 John 5:19

We did not love God first, but while we were His enemy, He loved us and sent His Son to die for us. God sent Jesus to show love to us even when we didn't love Him. In the same way, God causes us to love Him and love other people because of the love of Jesus. If we have not shown love to other people, it does not mean Jesus can't forgive us. In fact, He came to die for us and die for the way we sometimes treat people. Because He loves us, we can come to Him for forgiveness and He will cause us to start loving other people. We'll love God and other people because we have experienced God's love in our lives!