

YEAR C | QUARTER 1

8

A Sign of Royalty

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked" (Luke 6:35).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 6:27-36
- *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* chap. 3, pp. 73-75
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 62-65
- student story on page 92 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God wants us to love everyone.
- **Feel** grateful for Jesus' loving sacrifice for everyone.
- **Respond** by being willing to choose to act lovingly to everyone.

POWERPOINT

As sons and daughters of God, we can choose to love everyone.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

People have gathered in a field to be healed and to hear Jesus speak. He and the disciples go down to them, and He begins to heal. Then He turns to His disciples and begins outlining the principles of the kingdom of heaven, one of which is that sons and daughters of God will love their enemies.

This is a lesson about community.

Unfortunately, it is often members of our own community who will become antagonistic or seek to injure us in some way. However, God empowers His sons and daughters, to share the love they have received from Him with those who have not accepted this love for themselves. For young people, "enemies" often take the form of "bullies."

Teacher Enrichment

A "bully" is defined as one who is habitually cruel to others who are weaker. For most juniors/teens, this will be the type of enemy they will face in their everyday lives.

"The children of God are those who are partakers of His nature. It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God's Spirit will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred. To be kind to the unthankful and to the evil, to do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest reveal their high estate" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 75).

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Tollbooth Bully* *B. Draw a Person Test*	adult or older teen to stand at Sabbath School room door paper, pencils or markers
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 87. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 adult in Bible costume Bibles, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Trying It Out*	art supplies, paper, pencils/pens, markers
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*In Our Lives*	whiteboard or chalkboard, markers or chalk
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ adult or older teen at the door

Tollbooth Bully

You (or an assigned adult) stand outside your Sabbath School room door. As students arrive, send those who are late to stand in the corner of the room.

When all the students have arrived, allow the students standing in the corner to sit with the group.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when I sent you to the corner? Why did you respond as you did? How was this experience like being bullied in real life?**

Say: **Unfortunately there are people who love to bully, to take advantage, to seek to injure others. Also, as demonstrated this morning, bullying can involve excluding people from groups on purpose. Often we are advised to "stand up" to bullies. But today we are going to look at how God wants us to deal with this type of relationship.**

As sons and daughters of God, we can choose to love everyone.

(Adapted from *No-Miss Lessons for Pre-Teen Kids* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1997], p. 56. Used by permission.)

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils or markers

Draw a Person Test

After supplying paper and a pencil or marker to each student, ask them to draw a picture of a real individual whom they know but fear or dislike. Then have them crush the paper and throw it into the wastebasket. Next, give them a second piece of paper and ask them to write at the top of the page three or four positive qualities the same person has; then draw another picture of the person, focusing on these positive qualities instead of negative feelings about the person.

Debriefing

Ask: **Which picture was easier to draw—the one that depicted a person you feared or disliked or the one in which you focused on a positive quality? How did it feel to list positive qualities about someone you fear or dislike? God asks us to look at people the way He does.**

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Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Salt and Light" (*Praise Time*, no. 43)
"This Is My Commandment" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 116)
"He Has Shown Thee" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 125)
"Take These Hands" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 127)

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Each week our offerings go to missions around the world to help people we don't know come to understand the saving power of Jesus.

Prayer

Say: **Lord, we thank You for the many blessings given to us. We thank You for friends, and we thank You for giving us the opportunity to meet others we don't know. Give us the ability to see others the way You see them—what they will become, instead of what they are. Help us to love them for You.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **What situation is there in your life in which you feel someone is being cruel or taking advantage of you?** (Depending on the situation, some students may want to share aloud, while others may just want to raise their hand. Allow both responses.)

Say: **An enemy may be a bully in your school, or a person whose fight is not with you personally, but with your country or something you and your family stand for. In any of these cases, Jesus gave us directions on how to treat our enemies if we consider ourselves sons and daughters of God.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ adult in Bible costume

Experiencing the Story

Ahead of time, ask an adult or older youth to dress up as a Bible character who was present when Jesus gave the speech found in Luke 6:27-36. If possible, have them memorize it. Ask them to present it as something they heard Jesus say. They can then comment briefly about how they felt when they heard these teachings.

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you have felt if you had heard these ideas for the first time? Do you think there were Roman soldiers nearby? What do you think their reaction would have been? How may the Jews have felt seeing the Roman soldiers and listening to Jesus' words about loving our enemies? What is our power text today?**

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked" (Luke 6:35).

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Exploring the Bible

Form four groups. Give each group a Bible, some paper, and a pencil. Say: **I'll give your group a Bible passage to read. Then list one thing people should do to deal with bullies and one thing people should not do, according to your passage. Choose a recorder to write your ideas on paper and a reporter to share with the class.**

Assign each group one of these passages: Matthew 5:21-26; Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:14-21; and 1 John 4:17-21 along with Proverbs 24:17.

Have reporters share their findings. For example, reporters may say things such as "People should make peace with bullies," "Don't fight back; let God punish them," "Wish good for them," or "Don't hate them."

Debriefing

Ask: **Why does God tell us these ways to deal with bullies? What biblical advice is easiest for you to follow? most difficult? Explain your answer.**

Say: **God has given us these guidelines for dealing with enemies. Only connected to His love can we have the right attitude in these situations. It is also helpful to talk with a parent, teacher, or pastor for advice on how to put some of these principles into practice.**

As sons and daughters of God, we can choose to love everyone.

(Adapted from *No-Miss Lessons for Pre-Teen Kids* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1997], pp. 57, 58. Used by permission.)

Accommodation for students with special needs

Use the Bibles with tabs so that students who don't know all the books of the Bible may become independent in finding them. Depending on the student's special need assign a partner to work with them.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens
- ☐ markers

Trying It Out

Say: **You may have experienced—sometime, somewhere—unfair treatment from your peers or from someone in your circle of friends. Maybe you have experienced or have seen bullying at school, on the playground, in your neighborhood, etc. How do you feel when you are the center of attacks? What is your response to such unfair treatment? Today you have a chance to illustrate in some creative way how you felt when you witnessed bullying or when you were bullied.**

Be prepared to show students a visual representation of how it made you feel to witness bullying, or share a piece of writing (i.e., poem, short prose) on this topic.

Distribute art supplies and specify the time frame for this activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some things you created to illustrate your feelings about bullying? Think of how Jesus responded when He was mocked and laughed at by the soldiers and by the mob that demanded His crucifixion. He prayed for His enemies.** Ask: **How can we respond as Jesus did? How will we change if we choose to really respect everyone?**

Say: **Let's remember Jesus' example and choose to love and pray for our enemies. This will lead to a transformation in our lives and will help us be more like Jesus.**

As sons and daughters of God, we can choose to love everyone.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- whiteboard or chalkboard
- markers or chalk

In Our Lives

Discuss the following situations with your students. Ask: **Which of the following are good ways to show Christian love?**

1. Helping someone you don't like with their homework.

2. Refusing to return the $4 you borrowed from Jenny.

3. Fighting for the best seat in the classroom.

4. Giving up part of your lunch for the neighbor boy who often makes fun of you.

5. Inviting an unkempt classmate home for a weekend stay.

6. Trying to be kind to your neighbor's dog, which chewed up your shoe last week.

Say: **In your prayer tonight, pray for one or two individuals who are difficult to get along with.**

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As a closing song of commitment, sing "Lord, Be Glorified" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 148).

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to give each son and daughter of His a clearer picture of His love for them so that they can go and reflect this love to others, even those who treat them badly.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus became a suffering servant to save us. He is our example in serving others.**

Notes

Student lesson

A Sign of Royalty

Have you ever felt someone was always out to get you? What did you do about it? Have you wished you were strong enough to put them in their place? Jesus had another idea.

A large crowd had gathered on a big level place. All types of people were there. Jesus and the 12 disciples, went down to join them, and Jesus began to talk. Everyone listened with attention. Jesus' words were so simple, yet their message was deep and meaningful.

As usual, some Roman soldiers stood on the edges of the crowd. A few Jewish priests listened too. Jesus talked about various blessings and woes. Then He started on a slightly different subject.

He shared with them the secrets of experiencing real happiness: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

"If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them."

"Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back."

"Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them."

"And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full."

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:27-36).

Jesus paused to watch the reactions on the upturned faces around Him. He could see a few evil grins, many on Roman faces. He could see some scowls, many on priests' faces. He saw mixed expressions from the multitude. There was stirring. Some people were gathering their families and belongings and leaving. It wasn't even lunchtime. Those leaving early were careful not to go anywhere near the Roman soldiers. Those leaving early never heard the rest of Jesus' sermon. What He was asking of them was just too much. They didn't want to hear any more.

Toward evening, as most of the crowd was departing, one young man stayed seated near Jesus. "Master," he asked after a few moments of silence, "doesn't God give His blessings to those who obey Him? Why should we do good things to our enemies?"

Jesus smiled at him, "Doesn't God send the sun and the rain on the obedient and the disobedient? Can't they all hear the birds sing on a beautiful spring morning?"

"Yes," the boy responded thoughtfully.

"Doesn't God's mercy extend to everyone?" Jesus asked again.

"I never thought of it that way," the young man responded truthfully. He was clearly open to new ideas.

"Serving God," Jesus explained, "means being willing to be to others the way God is to us. Loving our enemies means we will always act in other people's best interest even if they are determined to hurt us. We will pray for them. We will think of real ways of helping them. We will grant them the same rights and respect as we would like for ourselves."

"I don't know if I could do that," the young man looked wistfully into the Master's face.

"And that is exactly the point," Jesus smiled, knowing that, once again, a young person would probably understand before the adults. "It can be done only as we accept that love from God ourselves, and then turn and reflect it on to those around us—regardless of who they are. Loving like that is the true sign of royalty, of being sons and daughters of God."

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 6:27-36
- *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, chap. 3, pp. 73-75
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 62-65 ("God's Better Way")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 17, 22

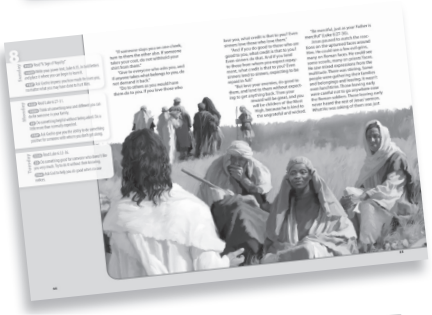
POWER TEXT

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked" (Luke 6:35).

POWER POINT

As sons and daughters of God, we can choose to love everyone.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read Colossians 3:10–15 and this week's story, "A Sign of Royalty."

LEARN Write your power text, Luke 6:35, in bold letters and place it where you can begin to learn it.

PRAY Ask God to impress you how much He loves you, no matter what you may have done to hurt Him.

Monday

READ Read Luke 6:27–31.

THINK Think of something new and different you can do for someone in your family.

DO Do it without being asked. Do a little more than was expected.

PRAY Ask God to give you the ability to do something positive for someone with whom you don't get along with.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 6:32–36.

DO Do something good for someone who doesn't like you very much. Try to do it without their knowing.

PRAY Ask God to help you do good when no one notices.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 5:43–48.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write a letter to God about what you learned from this lesson and these verses in particular.

READ Read the letter out loud to Him.

Thursday

READ Read Romans 12:14–21.

DISCUSS Talk with an adult about what it means to "heap burning coals" on someone's head, as it states in verse 20.

PRAY Ask God to show you a specific way that you can overcome evil with good today and tomorrow.

Friday

READ Read 1 John 4:17–21.

THINK Is what God is asking difficult? How can we love our enemies?

CREATE Draw or create a representation of the verse "We love because he first loved us." Remember that accepting His love "turns on" our ability to love others.

SHARE Share your thoughts or creation with your family at worship this evening.

PRAY Together with your family, thank God for loving you and for enabling you to love.