

## WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

## OPPOSITE DAY

### THE BIG IDEA

Our enemies help us learn to love.

### THE BIBLE

**Love Your Enemies:**

Luke 6:27-38

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Opposite Day Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Follow Me" (Kidspring)
  - "I Have Decided" (Group)
  - "I Will Follow" (Summit Kids)
  - "This Little Light of Mine" (CJ and Friends)

### ACTIVITY | Opposites Shout

- Welcome to another Opposite Day! Let's begin with another game about opposites!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a list of opposites beforehand (e.g., hot/cold, short/tall, up/down, open/close, etc.).
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Call out a word and do the corresponding motion with toddlers. Then show them the opposite motion. For example: "The opposite of GO [run in place] is STOP [stand still]." You can do this with pairs like up/down, sit/stand, smile/frown, shout/whisper, etc.
- Great job shouting out the opposite words! Let's try one more: **Do you know what the opposite of "friend" is?**
- The opposite of friend is enemy. In a book or movie, an enemy is someone who tries to stop the hero from winning.

- Did you know that sometimes, there are people in our lives that act like enemies, too?
- Sometimes we meet people who are unkind to us and hurt our feelings. That's not really nice, right?
- Today's Bible Story is going to show us what we can do when something like this happens to us.

### ACTIVITY | Heart Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Label four hula hoops as "friends," "family," "neighbors," and "enemies." Set up the "friends" and "family" hoops the closest so that it's easy to drop a beanbag into them. Place the "neighbors" one a little farther back, and the "enemies" hoop the farthest. Have kids try getting a beanbag into every hula hoop.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make sure to place the hula hoops close enough – about one to two feet apart – for the kids to be able to reach.
- **Which hula hoop was the hardest to get your beanbag into?**
- The hoop that said "enemies" was the farthest away so it was harder, right? But is it impossible? No! It takes more effort but we can get our beanbag in there if we tried.
- Today, we are going to hear about what God says about loving our enemies, or the people who are not nice to us and those who are hard to love. It sounds impossible, but trust me, we can do it!

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | Love Your Enemies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bookmark your Bible to Luke 6:27-38.
- Today, we are going to hear a Bible story that might be a little hard to understand. It's very opposite of what we might want to do.
- You see, God wants us to love everyone, including people who aren't very nice. To help understand it, let's act out parts of the story together.
- In our story, Jesus said to those gathered around, "Love your enemies and be nice to those that are mean to you." [Tell everyone to say, "Huh?"]
  - So if someone said, "Give me your toy!" We can say, "Okay, let's share!" Try saying that with me.
  - Or if someone said, "I don't want to play with you!" We can say, "I'll give you your space." Let's practice saying that.
  - Another thing someone might say is, "You hurt my feelings!" And even if we think we didn't do anything wrong, we can say, "I'm sorry, what I can I do to make you feel better?" Help me say that again.
- Why do we have to behave this way? When people are unkind to us and say mean things to us, why can't we do the same thing back to them?
- Well, because Jesus told us not to! And he had good reason. If you treat someone as badly as they treat you, then you can't become friends. You will stay enemies. But if one of you forgives and shows kindness, then you might make yourself a new friend! [Tell everyone to say, "Yay!"]

- If someone ever hurts you and makes you feel scared, that is not okay. Tell a grownup you love right away and let them know something is wrong.
- But when someone hurts your feelings, we can fix it. We can use what Jesus taught us to love our enemies!
- We can choose to love those people who are not nice, and God will help us do that. God will be happy when we choose to show love to everyone. *[Tell everyone to give their neighbor a hug or a high five.]*

### BIG IDEA | Our enemies help us learn to love.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach the Big Idea with the hand motions below. You could also revise this week's Big Idea to "God helps us love everyone" if the concept of enemies is tough to grasp for your preschoolers.
  - "Our enemies" = Make an "X" in front of you by intersecting your forearms.
  - "help us learn" = Lay both arms in front of you, palms facing up
  - "To love" = Bring both arms in across your chest.
- Today's Big Idea is . . . **Our enemies help us learn to love.**

### VIDEO | Opposite Day, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Lots of Love

- **When you think of "love" what is the first picture you think about?** A heart!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a large sheet of butcher or bulletin board paper. Have kids draw as many hearts on the paper using their fingers until the entire paper is filled (kind of like [this](#)).
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Create hearts out of sponges and have toddlers stamp hearts all over the paper.
- Look at all the hearts on this page. You did a fantastic job of covering this paper with hearts but I'm pretty sure we could fit more!
- That means we will never run out of love. We should love everyone, including our enemies – people who are unkind to us or those who are different from us in some way.
- **Our enemies help us learn to love**, and God helps us not to have enemies anymore when we love!

### PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us true love every single day. Please help us to love everyone just like you do. We love you! Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Peace Offering

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide various fruit and fruit gummies on the table and enough bowls for each kid to have their own. Help the kids to arrange their own fruit baskets.
- I know it can be so hard to be kind to people who are not kind to you, but this is exactly what God wants us to do!
- One easy way to help you be kind to someone is to share a peace offering. A peace offering can be something like a small gift that shows kindness.
- A popular peace offering is a fruit basket! Let's make our own fruit baskets! As you eat, we can remember our Big Idea: **Our enemies help us learn to love.**

### ACTIVITY | Heavy or Light

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare two buckets — one filled with things, and leave the other empty. Label the empty one "friends" and the filled one "enemies." Invite kids to come up and try picking up each bucket.
- **Which bucket was easier to lift?**
- **Which bucket was harder to lift?**
- The bucket that was heavier was harder to lift. But just because something is hard, that doesn't mean we can't do it or that we shouldn't do it.
- Jesus knew that it wouldn't be easy to love people who are unkind, but he wanted us to do it anyway because that's how we show God's love to people!
- **Our enemies help us learn to love.**

### ACTIVITY | Whack-a-Mole with Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a simple [human "whack-a-mole"](#) board using a refrigerator box. Try to have leaders be the "moles" (you can prop up the box so that adults can fit underneath the holes) or ask if kids want to participate. Use a giant inflatable hammer.
- Play whack-a-mole can be frustrating because the moles keep coming back up!
- Sometimes loving our enemies can feel this way. Even when we are kind and forgive, people say mean things to us again and again.
- But Jesus doesn't want us to give up. We still need to keep showing love to others just like Jesus never gives up on us!
- God shows us love even when we keep making mistakes over and over. God forgives us and gives us more chances. We can do the same for others.
- **Our enemies help us learn to love.**

### MEMORY VERSE | II Corinthians 12:9a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Say the memory verse together a couple of times. Then try alternating words where you say one word or phrase and have kids say the word that comes after that (e.g., My (grace!) is sufficient for (you!), for my (power!) is made (perfect!) in (weakness!).

## PLAY TIME

*While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Talk about how the image shows an opposite. As the kids color, discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea!*

### ACTIVITY | "Stick and Stone"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the book "Stick and Stone" with kids (or show a video reading like this). Then give each kid a rock and painting supplies. They can draw a heart with a happy face to remember what they learned today.*

### ACTIVITY | Puppet Corner

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out props, puppets, different scenery tapestries, cardboard, and invite the kids to reenact what they have learned about loving your enemies.*

*Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.*