

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

February 19, 2017

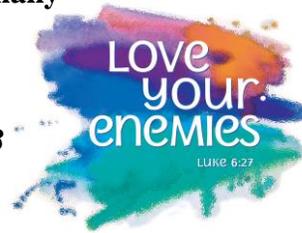
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48



Love Your Enemies. Object: A large heart cut out of red poster board.

What do you think of when you see a heart? (Hold up the heart.) Most of us would probably say that when we see a heart, we think of love. Who do you love? Do you love your parents? Do you love your brother or sister? How about your best friend? Do you love your teacher? It is easy to love these people, because they love us too.

Are there any boys or girls that are mean to you at recess? Has anyone ever said something about you that was not true? Do you love those boys and girls? Should we really be expected to love people who are mean to us, treat us badly, and say ugly things about us? Well, let's listen to what Jesus told us to do.

One day Jesus was teaching out on a hillside. We call his lesson that day "The Sermon on the Mount." In his sermon, Jesus said some things that really surprised his listeners. "You have heard that you should love your neighbors and hate your enemies," Jesus said. "But I say, love your enemies -- and if someone does mean and hateful things to you, pray for them."

Why should we love our enemies? Jesus said that when we love our enemies, we are acting like children of God. It isn't always easy to love your enemies, but there are some good reasons for doing it.

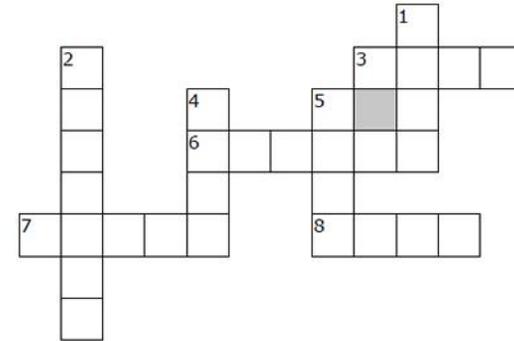
- It demonstrates the love of God to others.
- It sets a good example for others to follow.
- It can turn enemies into friends.

Father, it is easy to love those who love us. Help us to love our enemies so that they might know that we are your children. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. In those who obey the word of Christ, the love of God has reached perfection. Alleluia (I John 2:5)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. A warm feeling of affection for another person
6. Something good received in return for good behavior
7. Any person or group that is opposed to you
8. Something that causes harm; morally wrong; wicked

DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing; morally upright
2. Persons you know and like very much
4. To talk to God
5. A strong feeling of dislike for someone or something

ENEMY	EVIL	REWARD	HATE
GOOD	LOVE	FRIENDS	PRAY

HEART BOOKMARKERS: Provide the child with various colored heart cut-outs to glue to a book mark that they will decorate and write LOVE MY ENEMIES.

HEART MOBILE: Let the child decorate an empty paper towel roll with colored paper and stickers. Cut out and decorate hearts from construction paper. Attach the hearts to the decorated paper roll with short pieces of yarn. Each heart may have parts of today's lesson or Bible verse written on it. Place a long piece of yarn or string all the way through the paper roll and tie at the top for hanging.



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES



Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you,
and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Matthew 5:44