

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

February 24, 2019

Genesis 43:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

What do you think of when you see a 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 school? 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."

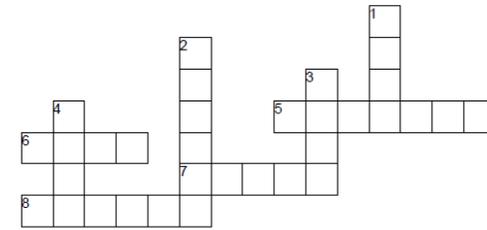
Who are our enemies? We might consider them to be the mean ones at school, the bullies, those who do not act very kindly towards us or others.

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 turns enemies into friends and reminds them that God loves them too.

Loving God, 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 and that they are too. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



HORIZONTAL

- Persons you know and like very much
- Something that is pleasing; morally upright
- Any person or group that is opposed to you
- Something good received in return for good behavior

VERTICAL

- Persons you know and like very much
- Something that is pleasing; morally upright
- Any person or group that is opposed to you
- Something good received in return for good behavior

ENEMY	LOVE	FRIENDS	REWARD
WICKED	HATE	GOOD	PRAY

Activity: This activity can be done on a large sheet of poster board or as a chalkboard activity. Let each child draw a heart and write a reason inside the drawn heart that they should love others. This can lead to a group discussion of why and how to love others, as well as problems that children might face in dealing with an "enemy".

Discussion Question: Loving others who are mean is not an easy thing to do. Jesus isn't telling us to put up with bullying, and if that is happening you need to tell a teacher or another adult. Jesus is saying to show kindness to all of God's children. That might look like telling someone who says something mean "You seem to be having a bad day" or "God loves you no matter what". Sometimes that might look like just walking away and saying a silent prayer. What else can you say or do?

Family Table Prayer for February:

Our Loving God so kind and good,
We thank you for our daily food.
We thank you for your love and care.
Be with us Lord, and hear our prayer. Amen.

February Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.

Coloring Page



“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
Luke 6:31