

Virtual Sunday Club 9/8/20
Loving Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)

Big Idea: Jesus' followers should love everyone, just as God loved everyone by sending his son to die for those who hated him.

Aim: To encourage children to be different by loving those who hate and hurt them.

Memory Verse - Matthew 5:3 (CEV)

'God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!'

Discussion Questions:

(You might find it helpful to have some coloured blocks or toy people to help you with this discussion)

1. Why did Red treat Blue and Green differently? *He was friends with Blue but not friends with Green*
2. Imagine that Green pushes Red over in the playground. How do you think Red would respond? *He might push Green back, or say something mean about them*
3. How would Jesus respond differently? *He treats both friends and enemies with love, so wouldn't act like Red if Green was mean to him*
4. Now imagine Red is a Christian, a kingdom person: how should he respond if Green pushes him over? *With love, forgiveness and kindness - what might this look like practically?*
5. How does God show love for both friends and enemies? *By sending sunshine, rain, and Jesus!*
6. How should kingdom people treat both friends and enemies? *By loving them and showing kindness*

For older children:

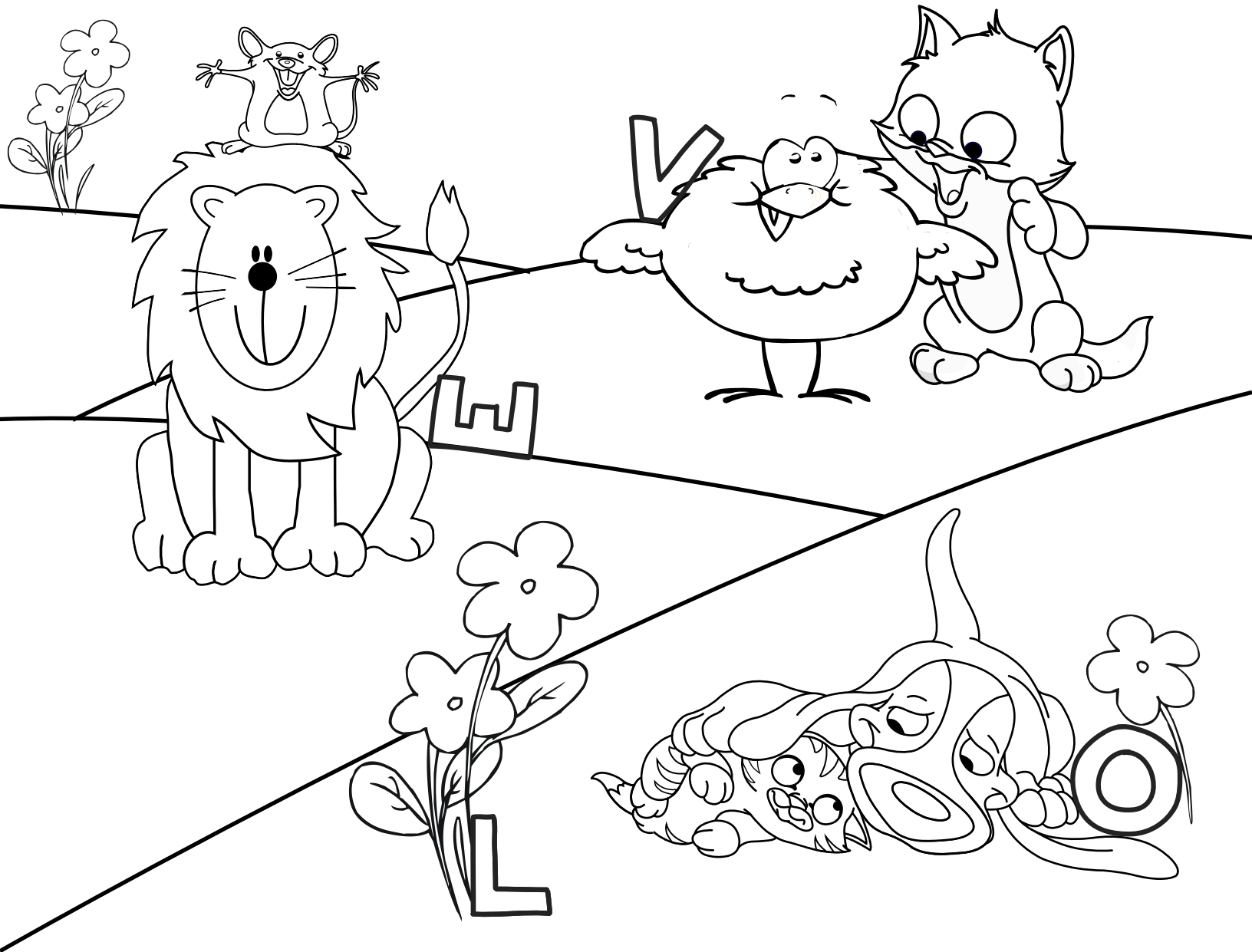
7. In what way do we feel like we 'lose' when we don't pay someone back for being mean to us?
8. If you were Green, and had just pushed Red over, how would you feel if Red responded kindly?
9. What's hard about Jesus' teaching on how to treat friends and enemies?
10. Why is our memory verse helpful when we struggle with this?

In your Sunday Club Scrapbook, you could...

- Write answers to the questions you've discussed
- Come up with a list of ways you could be kind and loving to people you don't get on well with - don't forget that Jesus said we should pray for them too!
- Write a prayer thanking God for all the good things he sends to both good and bad people, and ultimately for sending Jesus to die for his enemies (which is all of us!)

Letter Search

The animals below are sometimes natural enemies, but they are following Jesus' advice and showing love to each other. We've hidden the word "LOVE" in the picture below. Color the hidden letters—L, O, V, E—then color the picture.



Loving Our Enemies

Jesus reminds us of the importance of loving not only our friends, but also our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48). Have fun placing the green words into the puzzle. We've put in the first word and a few letters as hints.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?"

Matthew 5: 43-46 (NIV)

