

WEEK 4: Enemy Love

Big Idea: Does Jesus loves bullies?

HANGOUT

1. Discuss:
 - What is bullying? Have you ever seen or heard someone being bullied, or experienced it yourself? What happened? How did you feel?
 - What are some tools that your parents or school have taught you to handle bullying? if so, have you ever tried some of those strategies? Did they work?
2. Introduce today's Big Question: Does Jesus love bullies?

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

3. Tell the kids that Jesus has lots to teach us about the way to treat our enemies. Explain that in today's God Story Jesus talks about the old way of doing things and then a new better way he has for us. Ask the kids to listen for the old way and the new Jesus way to deal with people who hurt us.
4. Look up and read Matthew 5:38-48.
5. Discuss:
 - In verse 38, Jesus is talking about the old way to handle enemies when he says, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." What do you think that means? (it's hurting people back the same way that they hurt you). But Jesus says he has a better way in verse 39.
 - What is the new Jesus way to handle injury? (do not fight back against the person).
 - In verse 43, Jesus points out the old way again with the law: "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But in verse 44, Jesus teaches a new, better way to handle enemies. What is it? (love your enemies and pray for people who hurt you).
6. Using the activity page provided, take some time to apply the idea of the old way (of getting back at people for what they do) and the new Jesus way of dealing with enemies.
7. Let the kids know that this kind of enemy love is not easy and we can ask Jesus to help us to handle tough situations and to give us the love we need. Encourage the kids to always talk to a trusted grown up about bullying.

HUDDLE

8. Pray together and give the kids an opportunity to pray for anyone that they know who has experienced bullying. Encourage the kids to quietly pray for any bullies that they might know as well. Thank God for his never ending, never giving up love for everyone, including each of the kids (by name if possible) and for the power he gives us to love our enemies.

The Problem	The Old Way	The New, Jesus Way
Someone calls me a name.	I call them a name back.	I answer with kind words.
Someone hurts me.	I hurt them back.	I don't hurt back and I ask an adult for help.
Someone takes something that belongs to me.	I get back at them or get angry at them.	
Someone makes fun of me.	I make fun of them or say mean things about them.	