

WEEK 2: Love Your Enemy

Big Idea: Jesus gives us peace.

HANGOUT

1. Before the children arrive, cut large hearts out of colourful paper. Then cut the hearts in half. Write the first part of this month's Key Verse ("Peacemakers will plant") on one half and the second part ("seeds of peace") on the other. Prepare enough halves so that each child will have one.
2. Give one half of a heart to each child. If your group is an odd number, a leader should also hold a half. Encourage everyone to find someone who has a different half. When they make a whole heart match, read aloud the verse. Tell them it's part of James 3:18 (NLT). Help each partner say their half, then the children can practise saying it all together.

HEAR

3. Let the children know that in today's story from the Bible Jesus teaches his followers how to be peacemakers—even with people whom they don't get along with. Encourage everyone to listen for what peacemakers should do when others are unkind to them.
4. Use a children's Bible to read about loving our enemies (from Matthew 5:38-48).
5. Review the various scenarios of enemy love in this passage and what it says to do.
6. Explain that when we show love to all—even those who aren't kind to us—we're being peacemakers and planting seeds of peace.

HUDDLE

7. Encourage the children to think of someone who has been unkind to them in the past. Discuss how they could be peacemakers and show love to that person (e.g., your brother didn't share his snack; next time you have a snack, offer to share it).
8. Pray, "Dear God, thank you for [name each child in your group if possible]. Thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to show us how to live a life full of peace and love. Help us follow his example and be peacemakers with everyone. We love you! Amen."



JESUS GIVES
US PEACE.