

God Loves Everybody!

Teacher Pep Talk: We talk to children a lot today about tolerance, and about treating others equally or fairly. We talk and talk and talk. But many times we don't give them a reason for them to treat others as we ask. This lesson lays the foundation for all human relationships. The reason we are to treat others well, or as we wish to be treated ourselves, is that God loves everybody! Since God created all of us, and loves all of us, and values each of us, we should follow His example and love others as He loves them. Today you get a chance to teach the children to follow the "Golden Rule" just as Jesus taught us to do.

Before you teach this lesson, please review the following Bible verses that have to do with God's love and His command that we love one another (*even our enemies*): John 3:16, Matthew 5:43-47, 1 John 4:7-21, and our memory verse: Matthew 7:12 (**The Golden Rule**)

You will need: Pictures of people from around the world. (*From different ethnic groups, races, ages, wearing different clothes, etc.*)

Major Points:

- God loves us.
- God loves everybody.
- God commands us to love others.
- We are to treat others as we'd like to be treated.

Memory verse: Matthew 7:12 ...do to others what you would have them do to you...

Lesson:

God loves us.

- We have been learning that God loves us.
- Tell me, if God loves us, does that mean He loves you? Does it mean that He loves me? Does it mean that He loves even the people we don't know? How many people do you think God loves? (*Wait for answers to these questions.*)

God loves everybody.

- God loves you, and me. God loves him, and her.
- God loves everybody!!
- The Bible tells us that God loves the whole world!!

- Let's look at some pictures of people in the world. **[Show pictures of persons from different places in the world. Discuss differences in appearances, dress, age, etc.]**
- God loves all of these people, no matter how different they may seem from one another or from us.

God commands us to love others.

- Did you know that God wants us to love other people? (Yes.)
- God wants us to love others. In fact, God commands that we love others. A command is like an order.
- So, then we are supposed to love other people. But how are we supposed to do that? How are we supposed to show love to other people? (Take answers, they will vary.)

We are to treat others as we'd like to be treated.

- Sometimes it may seem hard to know exactly how to show love to other people.
- But Jesus gave us a rule to follow to help us.
- The rule is in our Memory verse today. Matthew 7:12 "...do to others what you would have them do to you..."
- How do you like to be treated? (Nicely, fairly, kindly, etc.)
- So we can treat others that way too. That is showing love to them. We are to treat others the way we'd like to be treated.

Isn't it nice that God loves us and that He taught us to love others?
Let's pray and thank God for that!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for loving us.
Thank you for helping us show love to others.
Thank you that you love everybody!
We love you back! Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Sing "Jesus Loves Me" Children enjoy singing familiar songs, especially in church!
Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Same and Different: Show the pictures from the lesson again. Talk about the people in the photos. How are they the same as us? How are they different? Does God love these people? Yes, God loves Everybody!

How to Treat Others: Make a list of different situations in which children might find themselves. (New person at school, dropped something on the floor, scared at night, etc.) Ask the children how they might feel in each situation. Ask how they might want to be treated in those situations. How can we show love to others in situations like those? Review the Memory Verse. Say the verse together several times.

How to Treat Others – Activity

Choose from the following list of situations in which a child might find himself/herself.. Ask the children in your classroom how they might feel if they were in these situations. Ask them how they would want to be treated in those situations. How can we show love to others in situations like those? Review the Memory Verse with the children: Matthew 7:12 “...do to others what you would have them do to you...”

NOTE: For even more fun, have the children act out the situations. The words in bold print are the situations. The words in italics are suggestions for how we might treat persons in those situations. (Read them only if the children get stuck for answers.)

You accidentally drop a bunch of little toys on the ground.
(Maybe someone could help you pick them up.)

You are the NEW kid in class and you are a little nervous.
(It would be nice if someone would say "hello" and invite you to play with them or sit by them.)

It's your birthday!
(How fun it would be if someone said "Happy Birthday!")

You have fallen down and skinned your knee.
(Perhaps someone will get help, or put a bandage on it.)

You have a NEW puppy at your house!!
(It would be nice if someone would listen to you tell about your puppy! Perhaps they could come see it, too.)

You want to play a game with the other children.
(Maybe they will invite you to play with them!)