

WEEK 2

READ MATTHEW 5:43–44

It's usually easy to love your friends. But what about those people who are not so friendly—the bully at school or the mean man next door who is always yelling at you? We do our best to avoid people like that, right? We certainly don't naturally love them or think about praying for them. But that's what Jesus expects us to do! He said it wasn't enough to just love our friends, and it wasn't okay to hate our enemies. We have to go above and beyond what most people do if we want to be more like Jesus.

Picture your best friend. What is your favorite way to show your best friend that you care about them?

Now think of the person that is hardest for you to love. This week, treat that person like they are a real friend: pray for them, do nice things for them, and show that person that you care about them just like you care about your best friend.

THANK God for teaching us how to love everyone.

DAY 1

DAY 2

READ ROMANS 12:19–21

Go to the kitchen and get out your favorite snack. Don't eat it, though. Instead, think about your enemy—the person who is always mean to you on the bus, or who makes fun of you during PE.

What would it feel like to give that person your favorite food?

Now go to your room or wherever your toys are and imagine giving your favorite toy to that person.

It seems crazy, right? Why would you want to reward your enemy when they're not nice to you?

But God says that's exactly what we should do—treat our enemy as our friend. Your enemy could even turn out to be a friend in the end! (Sometimes it's not safe for you to reach out to your enemy—never put yourself in situations where you could get hurt. In those cases, the best thing you can do is pray for your enemy and try not to be mean back.)

ASK God for the strength to love your enemies.



AN ADVENTURE OF LOVE AND TRUST
AND HOW IT CHANGED THE WORLD

WEEK 2

READ ROMANS 12:14

There are certain things that you expect to happen in life. If you trip, you expect to fall. If you stay up too late, you aren't surprised when you don't hear your alarm the next morning because you're sleeping so hard. If you eat too much ice cream, you know a stomachache is sure to follow. But what if none of that happened? What if instead of falling, you could fly? What if instead of missing your alarm, you woke up early? And what if after eating all that ice cream, you went out and ran a marathon?

None of that is very likely, but we can plan ahead to try and bring good things from bad. Draw a picture of the last time someone was mean to you. In the future, how could you "bless them" instead of cursing (being mean back) them? Take a second to draw out what could be true.

LAST TIME

NEXT TIME

LOOK for ways to be kind to those who are mean to you.

DAY 3

DAY 4

READ 1 PETER 3:9

Have you ever heard the phrase "kill them with kindness"? That doesn't even really seem possible, does it? But the idea is that by being kind to someone who is being mean to you, you will probably confuse them and maybe they'll stop being mean because it's so unexpected. It doesn't always work that way, unfortunately, but God still wants us to try!

Look in a mirror and remember: even if it doesn't change the other person, there's a good chance that being kind to your enemy will change YOU to be more like Jesus.

Who will you "kill with kindness" this week, and how will you do it? Find a dry-erase marker and write their name and your idea on the mirror so you can see it before you head out.

KNOW that being kind to your enemies changes YOU!