

BE KIND, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD

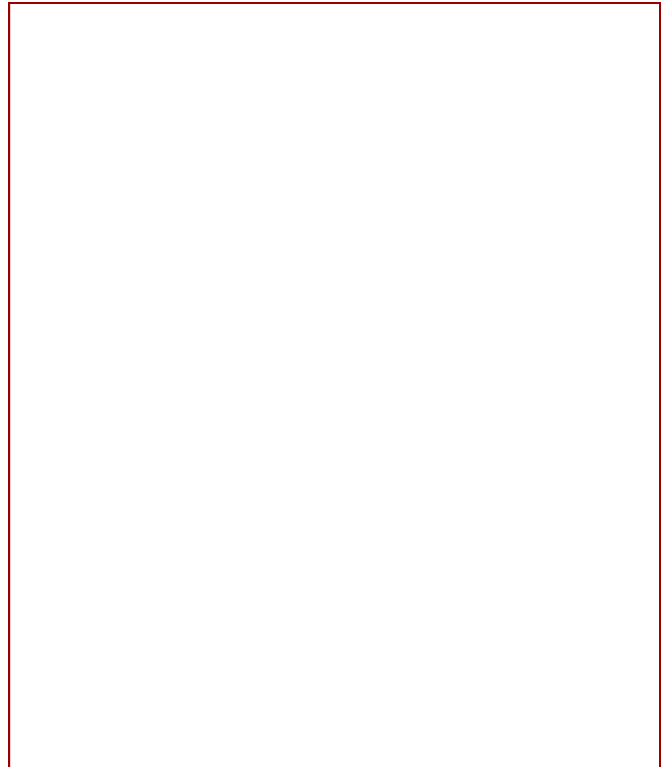
One day Jesus was talking about loving others. He said that we should treat other people like we want them to treat us.

He also said that if we love someone who loves us, that is not a special thing. He said even sinners do that. If we are kind to people who are kind to us, that is not special, either. Even sinners do that. And, if we share with people who share with us, that is not special because sinners share when they know someone will share with them.

But Jesus said that we need to love our enemies. He said we should do what is good and share with others. He said we should not think they will give us anything back. If we do this, we will be God's children.

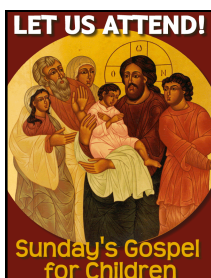
Jesus said that God is kind to everyone, even people who are not thankful. He is even kind to bad people! Jesus said we should be full of mercy just like our Father God is.

Draw how you can be kind to someone.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does Jesus say we should treat others?
2. Has someone ever been mean to you? How did you want them to treat you? How does Jesus say you should treat them?
3. Who should we love?
4. If we do what is good and share with others without thinking they will give us anything back, what will we be?
5. Who does God treat kindly?
6. How can you be full of mercy to others?



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Pre-12



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Draw and color a picture that shows how you can be kind to someone.



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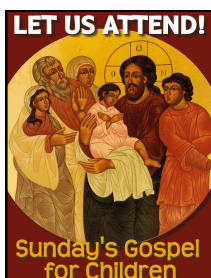
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Materials:

- * 2 straws
- * yarn, any color
- * crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers
- * white drawing paper
- * construction paper, any color
- * hole punch
- * glue
- * scissors
- * stapler

Procedure:

1. After reading the gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Discuss with your child how God asks us to show mercy and love toward all people. Sometimes that is hard to do, especially if someone has been mean or hurtful. Ask your child why it might be good to treat them with love, even if they are mean. (Because that's what God wants us to do. Also, we don't know why people act mean. Maybe they have had a bad day or don't receive lots of love in their life. Since we know about God and His love, it's our job to show His love towards everybody, so they, too, can feel love.)
3. Brainstorm some ways to show love and mercy towards all people. Discuss examples of times when you or your child have had to be nice and show love when it was hard to do.
4. Choose 4 of these examples to illustrate for a "Love Your Enemies" mobile.
5. Fold and cut the white drawing paper into 4 equal sections.
6. Have your child draw the examples on each of the 4 pieces of paper.
7. Fold and cut the construction paper into 4 equal sections.
8. Glue the 4 drawings onto the 4 pieces of construction paper.
9. Using the hole punch, make a hole at the top of each drawing.
10. Cut 2 pieces of yarn, of equal length.
11. Thread each piece of yarn through each straw. Make sure that an equal amount of yarn is left hanging from the ends of each straw.
12. Make an "X" with the 2 straws and staple in the middle to secure the straws together.
13. Tie each of the 4 yarn ends to the 4 pictures drawn.
14. Use an additional piece of yarn to hang the mobile.
15. Hang your child's mobile in a place where they can be reminded to love ALL people!



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Jesus said that God is kind to everyone, even people who are not thankful. He is even kind to bad people! Jesus said we should be full of mercy, just like our Father God is.

Draw a picture of each scene.

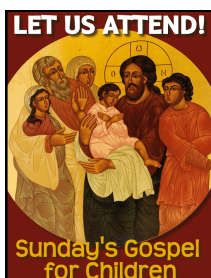
1 Sometimes I get hurt by someone.

2. I can strike back.

3. Or, I can choose to be kind instead.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does Jesus say we should treat others?
2. Has someone ever been mean to you? How did you want them to treat you? How does Jesus say you should treat them?
3. Who should we love?
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BE MERCIFUL

The Lord said, “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

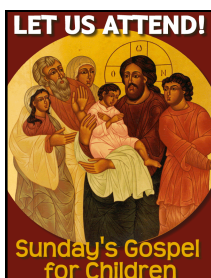
“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. This Gospel ends with the call to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." What does the word mercy or merciful mean? To help figure the meaning of this word out, try looking it up in a dictionary and also asking two people you know to define the word. You can compare the three definitions you found.
2. Why does the Gospel say we should be merciful?
3. How are you like your mom and dad? How do you look like them? Act like them? Sound like them?
4. How does the reading tell us we can become children of God the Father?
5. If we become children of God by being merciful the way God is merciful then we need to find out how God is merciful. To do that, listen in the liturgy for places where we say "Lord have mercy." What kinds of things does the priest or deacon ask God for, before we say, "Lord have mercy"?
6. How are your parents, teachers, friends, or people at church merciful, the way God is merciful?
7. What is one thing you can do this week to be merciful to someone?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus

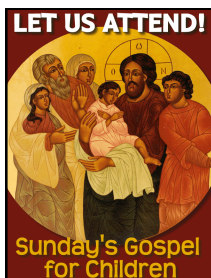
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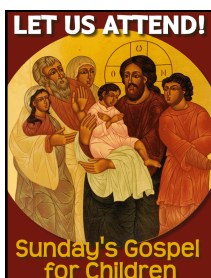
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Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who loves you? How do you know that person loves you?
2. Do you love that person?
3. What do you do that demonstrates your love for someone?
4. Who does this gospel tell you to love?
5. Do you have any enemies? Is there anyone in your life that you do not like or do not want to be nice to?
6. Based on the actions of love you described in questions one and three, how can you love your enemies.



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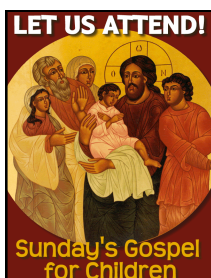
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Near the end of this gospel, what does it say God does to “the ungrateful and the selfish?”
2. Read the prayer of the trisagion that the priest says while we sing the trisagion: what does this prayer say God has done and is doing for us?
3. What does this prayer suggest we have to be grateful to God for?
4. What does this prayer say God is allowing us to do for him? What should we be offering him?
5. How much of each day do you think we spend thanking God for what he does for us? Do you think we are showing God we are grateful for what he does for us?
6. What do you think we spend most of our time doing each day? Do you think we are being selfish or generous with our time?
7. How does God respond to us even though we can be ungrateful and selfish? How does this make you feel? What does it make



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