

UNIT 2: INCLUDE • SESSION 8:

# “Showing Love”

MATTHEW 5:43-48

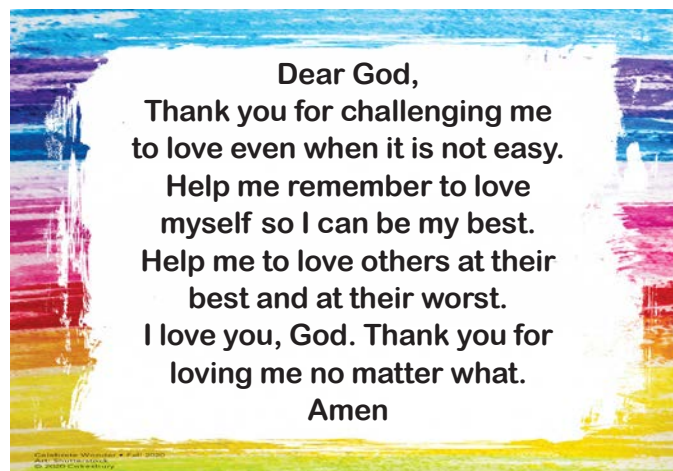
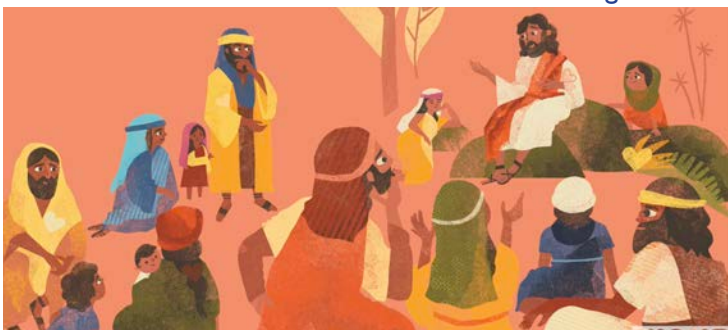


The LORD is good to everyone and everything; God's compassion extends to all his handiwork!

Psalms 145:9

## JESUS TEACHES LOVE:

Today is all about love! Our Bible story from the New Testament gospel of Matthew tells us that we must love not only those who love us and treat us well, but also those who are not always as nice. Jesus teaches this during the Sermon on the Mount. He knew the words from the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament 'love your neighbor and hate your enemy' and he changed that! He told the crowd that had gathered to **love your enemies!** He was calling for love and wholeness. He shared that there is nothing but love.



Dear God,  
Thank you for challenging me to love even when it is not easy.  
Help me remember to love myself so I can be my best.  
Help me to love others at their best and at their worst.  
I love you, God. Thank you for loving me no matter what.  
Amen

## WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- What is love? Who do you love? Who does God love?
- In today's Bible story, Jesus tells us to love our neighbor. Who is our neighbor?
- What makes a person easy or hard to love? What makes you easy or hard to love sometimes?
- Why is it important to extend God's love to those we might consider our enemies?
- What does love look like to you? Can you love in different ways?
- What does it mean to love yourself? Why is that important?
- Think of a time someone has loved you when you were acting unlovable. What did they do? Write or draw a story about someone who is not being nice and how you show love to them.

## BIBLE STORY:

In today's Bible story, we see Jesus teaching the people one of the hardest lessons to learn. Jesus was teaching a large crowd on the mountainside. He said, "You might have heard that we should be nice to people who are nice to us, and mean to people who are mean to us. But that's not what I want you to do. I want you to be loving and kind to all people, even people who are mean to you. God loves everyone, so we also must show love to everyone."

God challenges us to love where it is hard to do so, not just where it is easy. It might be hard to love someone who is rude or mean but sharing God's love is not meant to always be easy. **Love does not always look one way.** Sometimes love is more than a feeling, it's an action. To love can mean showing someone another way to act, setting boundaries, standing up for what is right, praying for those we disagree with, etc. Love looks like many things, just like all of God's people.



# Showing Love

## How Can You Show Love?

CELEBRATE  
**WONDER**<sup>TM</sup>  
Session 8

### Instructions

Write in each heart a different way to show love for others.





# Showing Love

## Wondering About Love

### Instructions

Our Scripture story tells us that loving those who have been unkind to us is sometimes a difficult thing to do. Complete the maze as you think about ways to love in difficult situations.

Start

Finish

