



## 3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

### MAN'S BEST FRIEND

**PROPS NEEDED:** Pictures of cats and dogs (or bring in pets)

#### LESSON:

- How many of you have a dog?  
How many have a cat?
- (Allow them to respond by going around the circle and giving them a chance to say if they have a cat or dog and the name)
- What's the difference between cats and dogs? Usually, cats and dogs don't like each other.
- Have you ever heard the saying, "They were fighting like cats and dogs!"? It's a saying grown ups use when they are describing people that are arguing or fighting.
- Cats and dogs are very different. It seems like most people either like dogs better or like cats better.
- Let's vote – which do you like better? There is an important thing that makes dogs different than cats. Dogs love you no matter what. Even if you are mean to them, they will still love you and try to lick you and will be happy to see you!
- Cats usually just lie around the house and ignore you.

#### PUT INTO PRACTICE:

- We should take a lesson from dogs.
- Jesus told us in the Bible to love our enemies and to pray for them.
- If you have someone you don't get along with or someone who is mean to you there are two things you should do.
- First, don't treat them badly (continue to be nice).
- Second, pray for them.
- Think about someone you think might be your enemy.
- Decide to pray for that person and then go out of your way to do something nice for them.

#### QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What is an enemy?
2. What does Jesus tell us to do to our enemies?
3. Do you think it's hard to do what Jesus said?
4. Have you ever had an enemy you prayed for? What happened?



Super Church 2.0 Small Group Notes

## SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

1. Pre-Service Activity
2. Bible Time
3. Small Group Lesson
4. Activity Page
5. Dismiss

## AGAPE LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

#### MEMORY VERSE:

**Matthew 5:44**, "But I tell you: love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

#### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus commanded us to love our enemies.



## 1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

### ICE BREAKER Questions:

#### Question #18:

- Who is your best friend?
- Why are they your best friend?

#### Question #321:

- If you could be an animal, what would you be?
- Why?

### ICE BREAKER Game:

#### The Name Game

- Have children sit in a circle.
- Pick a child to start and have him/her choose a word that starts with the same letter as his/her name (For example: Tiny Travis).
- The next child should repeat what the first child said, and then add his/her own word and name (For example: this is Tiny Tim and I am Silly Sara).
- Each child will add another name and word and keep going until the end of the circle.
- The leader gets to name the entire group!

## 2. BIBLE Time

### READ THE BIBLE:

*1st-2nd Grade - Day by Day Bible: A Friend & A Spear (pages 59 & 60 and pages 63 & 64)*

*3rd Grade and up - NIV Bible: 1 Samuel 18 & 19, 1 Samuel 24*

- Have each child read one verse out loud. Go around the room.
- This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible.

### BIBLE STORY:

*David & The King*

### BIBLE CONNECTION:

*Before David was King he used to play his harp for King Saul. The King loved listening to David play, it made him feel good. As David grew older King Saul began to dislike him very much, in fact he even tried to kill him. David hid from the King for years and God protected him. His friends told David that he should just kill King Saul because of how he had treated him. David refused to take revenge against his enemy and trusted God. He obeyed what God wanted him to do and didn't try to get him back for how badly he was treated.*

### BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. What did David do for King Saul? (played the harp for him)
2. Did King Saul always like David? (no as David got older he began to hate him)
3. What did King Saul try to do to David? (kill him)
4. What did David do to King Saul, his enemy? (nothing)
5. Why did God bless David? (because he loved his enemy instead of getting revenge)

**POINT TO MAKE:** *When King Saul died, David became the king. The Lord blessed him because he loved his enemy instead of getting revenge.*