

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR GOD'S WILD KINGDOM- WEEK 6: THE CROCODILE/PLOVER (7/12/20)

Bible Verse: "But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who treat you badly."
Matthew 5:44

EXPLANATION: *Jesus is talking to His followers in this Bible verse. Right before this sentence He says to them, "you have heard it said. 'love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" This was what the religious leaders (Pharisees) were teaching the Israelite people. Jesus tells the people, "I've got a new way that I want you to think about your enemies. Don't hate, be mean to, or get revenge on your enemies. Instead, love them. Pray for those who do wrong to you." The way of Jesus always helps people act in a way that shows how God acts towards those He created. We do many mean things (sin) to God. We are God's enemies. But He doesn't hate us in return. He loves us, blesses us, and offers the gift of forgiveness of our sins when we believe in Jesus.*

Verse activity: Supplies needed: verse cube & numbered worksheet found below, scissors, tape or glue, paper, pencil
Print out the verse cube found below. Cut it out and tape the cube together. To complete the activity, roll the cube trying to roll the face of the cube that has the verse in order: When you roll the part of the verse you need, write it down on the numbered sheet.

Journal: Supplies needed: Journal page (see below) pencil

EXPLANATION: *The crocodile and the plover could choose to act like great enemies toward one another. But instead they choose to offer help and kindness to each other. That's what God tells the followers of Jesus to do. Our sinful heart wants to be mean to our enemies. But God tells us to love them-to pray for them and choose to treat them kindly instead of getting even with them.*

Pray: Father God, You are so kind, loving and forgiving! Thank you for making a way for us to have peace with you instead of being enemies with you. Help our hearts to love you and to love our enemies. Amen

Use the journal page below to allow your child to respond to the Bible lesson.

God's Heart/Enemy's Heart Activity Supplies needed: scenes listed below, may use sidewalk chalk, crayons, flyswatter

EXPLANATION: *The crocodile is a fierce enemy to almost every animal-except the plover, a tiny little bird. The crocodile and plover should be enemies but instead they kindly help each other. God tells us to love our enemies. He wants us to choose to speak, think or act with loving kindness towards them. Maybe that means saying something kind to a person when she hurts us. Maybe that means doing something kind for him when he hurts us. Maybe it is best to stay away from that person and lovingly pray for him or her. God gives believers in Jesus power to treat their enemies with loving kindness instead of getting back at them. There are several ways to do this activity:*

1. Select a scene to read to your child. If the scene shows a way that God would respond to an enemy your child should make a heart shape with her hands/arms. If the scene shows a way a sinful heart would treat an enemy your child should snap their hands together like a crocodile's mouth.
2. Play the game the same way except before playing draw a heart shape and a crocodile mouth shape (<) on papers or on the sidewalk/driveway with chalk. Give your child a flyswatter and they should SNAP down on the proper shape that the scene describes.
3. You may simply talk over these scenes having your child say what is the best, God honoring way to treat a person in each scene.

SCENES:

Hit someone who hit you

Walk away from someone who hit you and ask a teacher for help

Take the pencil of the person who took yours
Call your sister names after she takes your favorite toy

Pray for a person who is mean to you
Tell others positive, kind things about someone who teases you

Push the person who cut in line

Keep your hands to yourself when a person cuts in line

Make a mean face at the person who stuck out her tongue at you

Smile at the person who stuck out her tongue at you

Think of ways to be mean to the person who stepped on your toe

Think of ways to be kind to the person who called you a name

Promise never to forgive your brother for the wrong things he did to you

Forgive you brother promising NOT to keep angry thoughts in your mind about him.

Ignore your enemy when she asks for help picking up her dropped crayons

Cheerfully help your enemy pick when she asks for help cleaning up a mess

Tell others all the bad things a person did to you

Choose to keep quiet when someone wrongs you

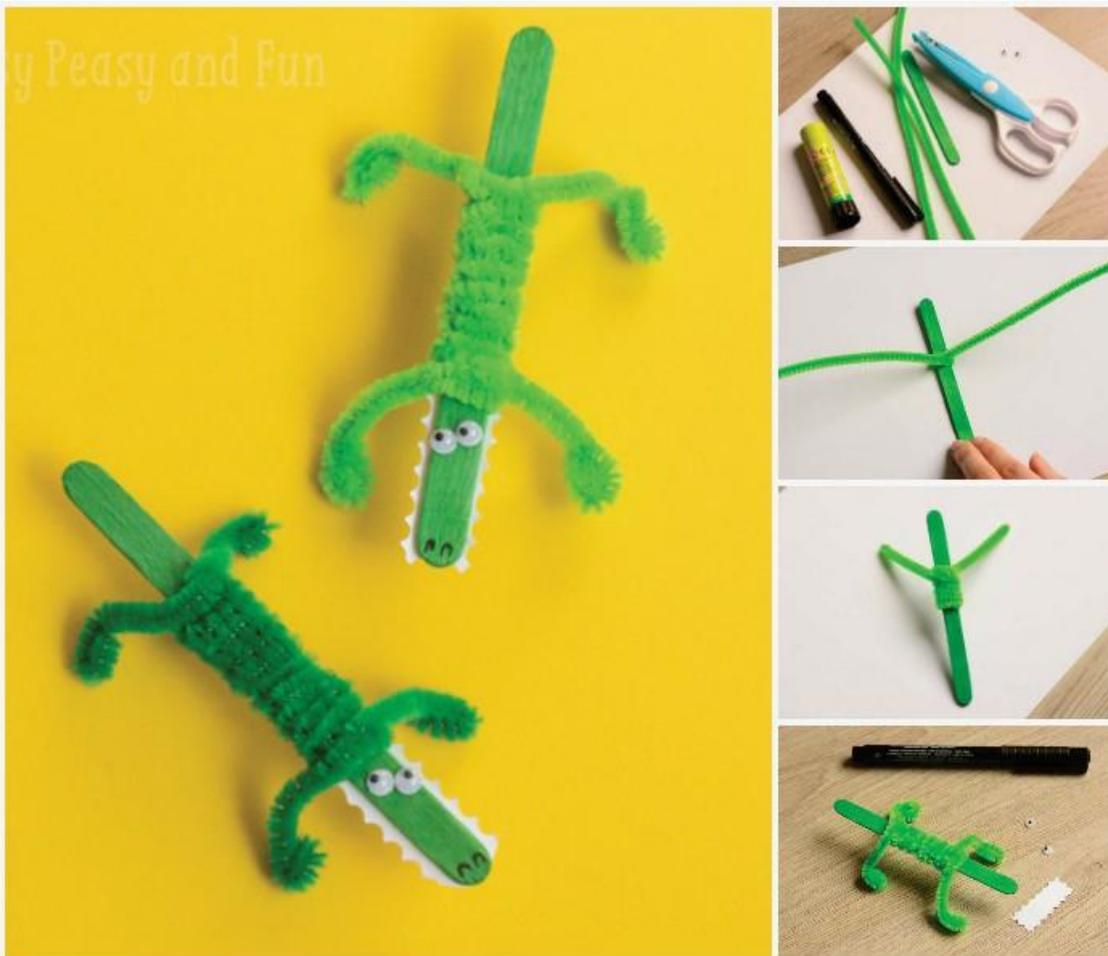
Love Your Enemy Science: Supplies needed: tonic water, grapefruit OR cantaloupe, salt OR unsweetened lemonade or fruit drink mix, sugar

Have your child taste either the tonic water, grapefruit, cantaloupe or unsweetened drink mix. Ask him how it tastes. Then add salt to the tonic water, grapefruit or cantaloupe and sugar to the drink mix and have your child taste again. Ask how it tastes now.

EXPLANATION: On it's own the tonic water/grapefruit/cantaloupe/unsweetened drink tastes bitter. Bitter taste makes us think of unkindness or that nasty feeling we get inside when someone wrongs us. It is ugly, and CAN lead us to think, say and/or do sinful things. It could lead us to get revenge on an enemy and treat them poorly. When the salt/sugar was added to the tonic water/grapefruit/cantaloupe/unsweetened drink it covered up the bitter taste and made it sweet. When a person who loves and believes in Jesus shows love to an enemy it is just like that salt/sugar. The kindness (prayer, nice words or kind action) covers up the bitter treatment of an enemy and brings in the sweet lovingkindness of God!

Crocodile Friend: Supplies needed: craft stick, green marker or crayon, 2 green pipe cleaners, google eyes, white paper for teeth, glue

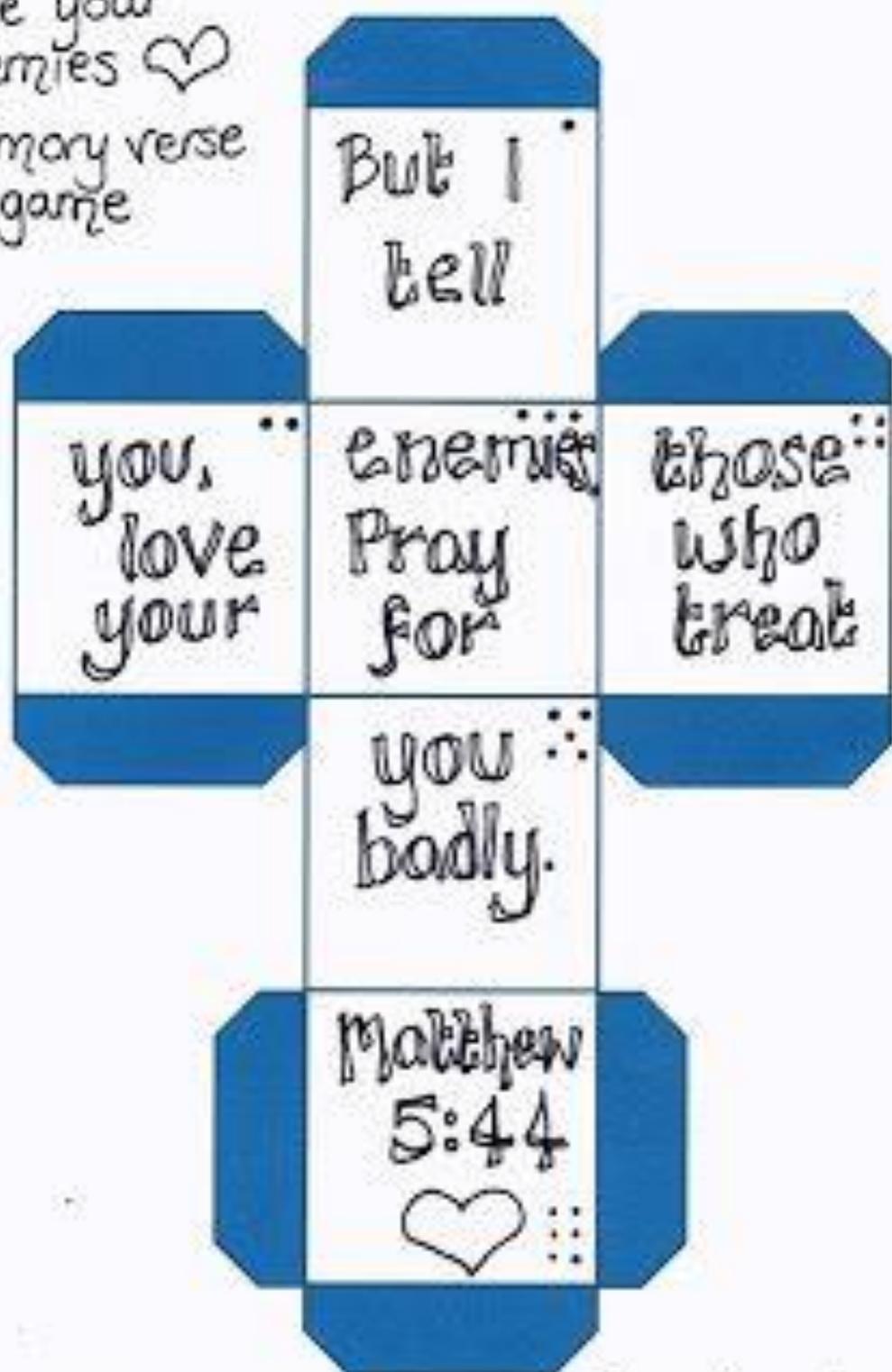
EXPLANATION: God shows us how to love our enemy with the crocodile and the plover. The crocodile often harms small animals like the plover. The plover could choose to peck at the crocodile to try to hurt him...to get back at him for being mean. But instead, the plover treats the crocodile with kindness, cleaning his teeth! God tells us to love our enemies. We can love an enemy by helping him. We can love an enemy by speaking kindly about him. We can love an enemy by praying for him. The crocodile and the plover remind us that God loved His enemies when He sent the Lord Jesus to die for our sins. Make this crocodile and every time you look at it, thank God for loving His enemies-you and I-and sending us Jesus! Color the craft stick with a green marker or crayon. Starting in the middle of the craft stick, wrap a pipe cleaner around the stick, working towards one end. Leave small bits of pipe cleaner for the feet. Starting in the middle, wrap the second pipe cleaner around the stick towards the other end. Glue on the paper teeth and the google eyes.



Animal Matching Game (especially for toddlers and preschoolers): Supplies needed: animal cards

EXPLANATION: God created all the animals. Some animals are enemies of one another...the lion will hurt a lamb. A shark will hurt other smaller fish. But the crocodile and the plover bird are friends. Instead of hurting each other, they help one another. Every time you find 2 animals that match in the game, stop and thank God for a friend that He has given you. Cut out the cards. Place all cards (or as many matched sets as is appropriate for your child/children) face down and take turns finding matches.

Love your
enemies ♡
Memory verse
game



Play with a partner. Take it in turns to roll the dice. Roll until you have read the verse in the correct order. The first partner to do this is the winner!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Crocodile

Time With God Journal

"I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (treat you badly), that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:44

God asks us and gives us power to treat our enemies with love, kindness and prayer.

Think about a person who you are not happy with right now...someone you would call an enemy. Draw or write about a way you could obey God and treat this person. Ask God for His power to do this kind and loving thing.

Draw or write a prayer for this person. Then take time to meet with God and talk to Him about treating enemies in a way that show God you love Him.