

# A Broadly-Graded Two-Session Unit on Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself (Preschool-Grade 5)

**Theme:** Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

**Using the following books:**

*God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu

*The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss

The Bible

## Session One: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

### I. Background

**A. Learners:** Preschool through Fifth Grade combined summer Sunday school. We have about ten children during the summer -six is typical.

**B. Setting:** Class room in the Fellowship building. This is a two week unit.

**C. Time frame for this session of the class:** 45 minutes

### II. Focus

A. The **subject matter** for the class is Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

B. **Main idea:** this session will show the children Christ's example of loving others, using the story experience lesson planning format .

C. **Session goals:** I want the kids to see that Jesus himself provided the role model for how he calls us to treat one another. I really want them to get it that Jesus' love was available even to the ones society shunned, snubbed, or despised, not just the "acceptable" people.

### III. Space, set up, materials

A. Sit in the floor to read the story and let the children sit close around so they can see the pictures.

B. Have the book, *God's Dream* handy.

C. Gather crayons and paper for drawing.

D. Have poem ready to close with.

### IV. Plan for teaching

#### Step 1: Feel into the story

- Start by reading *God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams (faith review attached). Have the children gather around so they can see the illustrations and invite them to study each picture as you read.
- Ask the first two faith talk questions (from faith review).
- Show them the illustration from pages 13 and 14 and ask the faith talk

questions in paragraph three (from faith review).

- Show them the illustration from the next page. Ask the faith questions in the fourth paragraph (from faith review).
- Tell them to hold onto that memory of their feelings as you tell today's Bible story.

**Step 2: Meet with the Bible story**

- Tell the story of who Jesus hung out with (as outlined on attached story note sheet)
- Ask each child to name some of the people from my story that Jesus hung out with.
- Ask if they think these people would have been popular when Jesus lived. Why or why not?

**Step 3: Respond out of the story**

- Ask the children to name a few things from the story that Jesus did to show he liked these people.
- Ask them to name some things they saw in our book that showed that those kids liked each other. What were some of the things they did together?
- Remind them about the scene from the book where the two children were arguing. Do they remember what happened next?
- Connect to book memory: all of us get angry sometimes and none of us like it when someone is mad at us or when we're left out. It makes us feel bad. Jesus made friends with everyone and even forgave the people that put him on the cross to die because he still loved them.
- Jesus wants us to help make God's dreams come true by playing together and sharing and being kind to everyone. Can you think of someone you weren't nice to or who wasn't nice to you? What do you think Jesus would want you to do about that now?
- Let the children draw a picture of what they think the world or their schools or their neighborhoods would look like if we all loved each other like Christ loves us.
- Close with the poem.

Faith Review for this session was posted at <http://storypath.wordpress.com> on 12/7/2009.