

Care About Who?

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 5****Focus:**

God wants us to care about people we really don't like.

Lesson 5**Bible Basis:**

Jonah 1—4

Lesson 5**Memory Verse:**

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”
—Matthew 22:39

Students will consider caring about people they do not like and will be challenged to ask God to help them see others through His eyes of love.

Materials:

- Internet access

Once all students are present, invite them to participate in a discussion.

- **What would you do if your teacher assigned you to work on a project with someone you don't like? Please don't use names when you answer.** (Answers will vary but may include: ask to be reassigned, do most of the work alone, work with the person but complain.)
- **What if you were asked to help a classmate who you know doesn't like you? How would you handle that?** (Answers will vary.)

We're going to watch a video about Daryl Davis, an African American man who engages in conversation with members of the Ku Klux Klan. His interactions with these people are all based on this foundational question: “How can you hate me if you don't even know me?” Rather than choosing to hate those who hate him, Daryl begins dismantling racism through listening and conversation.

- **How would you respond if you were in Daryl's situation and chose to interact with people who hated you?** (Answers will vary but may include: try to avoid a lot of interaction, be very guarded in conversation, etc.)

Play the following video for your students [1:14]:

Daryl Davis Combats Hate through Speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq-l73DIUu4>

Through Daryl's radical method of engaging people who hate him in conversation, he's been able to convince many members of the KKK to change their racist ways.

➤ **Where do you think we should draw the line when it comes to engaging with or caring about other people?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **Why is it so hard for us to care about some people while it's so easy to love others?** (Answers will vary.)

Jonah was asked to be God's messenger to people who were enemies of Israel, who not only worshiped other gods, but were also known for their violence. There was no way Jonah wanted them to turn to God, experience God's mercy, and be forgiven. Let's see how that turned out.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 5 / April 7, 2024

Care About Who?

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 5**Focus:**

God wants us to care about people we really don't like.

Lesson 5**Bible Basis:**

Jonah 1—4

Lesson 5**Memory Verse:**

"Love your neighbor as yourself."
—Matthew 22:39

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Optional: markers or colored pencils

In this step, students will make a bookmark to help them remember to love others. If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

Jonah may have felt that the Ninevites didn't deserve God's love. He didn't want people who he thought were bad to receive the same love and mercy that God showed to him.

- **What changes must we make to learn to love people we don't like?** (Answers will vary; ask God to help us love with His love; rely on God's help; don't judge others; realize that others are God's creation, too.)

Think about someone you don't like and you know you'll come in contact with during the coming week. Don't say the person's name now, but every day this week, pray over that person. Pray that God will help you change your attitude so that you will learn to love that person with God's love. Pray for help loving that person.

We are going to make bookmarks you can put in your schoolbooks, so you can remember to see others through the eyes of God's love. Use the bookmarks as a reminder to ask God to help you to love even those who are difficult to love.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Instruct students to write the memory verse on one side of the card. Then, invite them to decorate their bookmarks.

- **One way we can start to love others is by asking God to bless them. What kind of blessings might we ask God to give to those we'll be praying for this week? Don't share names; we're listing blessings.** (Answers will vary; salvation, acceptance, love, success, etc.)

Close in prayer for the courage to see others through God's eyes of love and the heart to love those who are sometimes difficult to love.

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