



Disagree ≠ Hate
Stand Alone Lesson
Oct 31 & Nov 1, 2020



LEADER PREP

GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

- (1) For students to first realize that disagreement with someone doesn't equal hate.
- (2) For students to take it one step further and love people, even when they are shown hate.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:17-21

THINK ABOUT THIS

We all have natural reflexes. When the doctor hits your knee just right, it bends. When people say mean things or sometimes things we perceive as mean, we have a natural desire to be mean back. **Our goal today is NOT to give students a guilt trip for this natural reflex, but to encourage students to live out of the supernatural ability God gives them to conquer evil with good.**

When we realize we have sinned, we naturally feel guilty. Once we realize our guilt, we do NOT have to stay there. We can ask God for forgiveness. We can ask God to renew our hearts and empower us to live less in our sins and more like Him. That is the POWER of the GOSPEL! This lesson is not just about being a kind person, although if students embrace it that will be a great result. This lesson, as all our lessons, is about living in God's forgiveness and encouraging each other to grow in our relationships with Jesus.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

You can disagree with someone and still love them.

GET THEM TALKING

What are some common reactions to someone being mean to you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do people sometimes feel that when someone disagrees with them they hate them or need to fight about it?

READ ROMANS 12:17-21. As you read, have students make two different lists on a poster board:

- (1) What are these verses telling us to do?
- (2) What are these verses telling us NOT to do?

Discuss the following questions together:

2. Let's first look at the "To Do" list – why can it be hard to do these things?
3. Second, let's look at the "Not To Do" list – why can it be hard to NOT do these things?
4. If we are all honest, we've probably all done something on the "Not To Do" list. Me included. It's ok, good even, to acknowledge our sin. Once we acknowledge it, what should we do with it? (*Should we keep beating ourselves up over and over with it or ask God for His forgiveness? What difference will that choice make in our lives?*)
5. Once we receive God's forgiveness, for this or any sin, what should be our next step? (*Should we just keep on doing the same sins or ask God for His help to live in His ways? What difference will that choice make in our lives?*)
6. What are different ways we can show love and try to live in peace with people who disagree with us?
7. Think: Who is someone that I disagree with or have a hard time getting along with. Get that person in your mind, but don't share names. Now let's go around the circle and each share one way we could show love to that person this week.

NEXT STEP

This week, do one kind thing to show love to the person who you identified you have a hard time getting along with. They may or may not react kindly to you – that is ok. Be kind to them anyway.

PRAYER GUIDE

God, please help us to show love and kindness to everyone, especially those who disagree with us or hurt our feelings. We need your supernatural strength, love, peace and patience to do this. Forgive us where we have returned evil with evil and help us all to live in a way where we conquer evil with God. Please be with our nation and help build bridges where people are divided on issues. We love you! Amen.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

ROMANS 12:17-21 (NLT)

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,
“I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.

²⁰ Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.”

²¹ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”