



Third's Spotlight



Our current Bible unit in third grade is titled, *Jesus – Friend of Children*. This is the first unit of three that explores Jesus' friendship with others. In this first unit we are exploring how Jesus is drawn to children and children are drawn to Jesus. We are realizing that the more we learn about our friend Jesus and His character, the more we will want to share this friend with others. After discussing the characteristics of a really good friend, each third grader wrote about what it is about Jesus that makes Him such an amazing friend. Here is a compilation of their precious responses:

He will be my friend forever. Nothing I do will make him not want to be my friend.

He cares about me.

I think Jesus laughs a lot and has fun!

He listens to me, and my prayers.

He is trustworthy.

He makes me feel really special.

He is truthful.

He is always kind and patient. He is never mean.

I can talk to Him anytime and anywhere.

He is always there for me to go to.

He loves kids!

I can tell Him my secrets and He will keep them.

He loves me so much that He died for me.

Thank you for continuing to keep the third graders in your thoughts and prayers.



Village
Adventist Elementary School

Principal's Spotlight



Just and Unjust

“It’s just not fair.” How many times have you heard someone say that or have you said it yourself. I have heard it many times in the school context, children generally have a strong sense of fairness. They want to see justice done in the school, home and in the world around them. And while we are selfish by nature and don’t always apply this sense of fairness fairly, how ironic, I believe that God has placed a sense of fairness in each of us, because it reflects His character of justice and fairness.

Yet in Matthew 5:45, Jesus says something that really is astounding. Something that turns our sense of fairness and justice on its head. We all agree that the ‘good people’ should be blessed and receive the rain and sunshine from heaven, but our sense of fairness also says that the ‘bad people’ should not receive the rain and sunshine from heaven. In other words we believe that good people should receive good things and bad people should receive bad things.

Look closely at what Jesus says in Matthew 5:45, in essence He says that some of God’s best gifts - the rain and the sunshine fall freely upon both the good and the bad in our world. That’s not fair. At least not in our sense of fairness. But God loves unconditionally and so evens the unjust, those that curse and hate Him receive some of His best gifts. After all who can survive let alone thrive without the rain and the sunshine.

Obviously, God’s mercy and compassion extends far beyond our human reasoning, our so called sense of fairness. Even if there were good people in this world, but since the bible tells us that we all have sinned, in essence there are no ‘good people,’ we still have done nothing to deserve His love and kindness towards us. Here at Village School we desire to be ‘just’, but we know we have not earned God’s love and favor, and that even being just comes all from Him. So we remain thankful for God’s goodness and ask for His love and kindness so that like Him we will shine on the just and the unjust alike, so that they may see His beautiful character and desire to know, love and follow Him.