


Devotional Lesson: "I Hate My Brother!"

 **Theme:** Replacing hate with love

Story: "The Two Brothers"

There were once two brothers, Dante and Andre. They were only a year apart, and they fought about everything. Dante felt like Andre was always in his way, always taking his stuff, and always getting him in trouble.

One day, after a particularly bad argument, Dante shouted, "I hate you, Andre!" and slammed his door. At first, he felt powerful saying those words. But later, he couldn't shake an uneasy feeling.

That night, their grandfather came over for dinner. He noticed the tension and asked what happened. When Dante told him, his grandfather sighed and said, "You know, I had a brother too. We argued a lot. I said 'I hate you' once, and I never got the chance to take it back. He passed away unexpectedly, and I've regretted it ever since."

Dante swallowed hard. He had never thought about what his words meant beyond the moment. His grandfather continued, "The Bible says that when we hate someone, it's like having murder in our hearts (1 John 3:15). Is that really what you want?"

Dante knew the answer was no. But now he had to figure out how to make things right.

 **Look up these verses and fill in the blanks:**

1. **1 John 3:15** – "Anyone who _____ a brother or sister is a _____, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."
2. **Proverbs 10:12** – "Hatred stirs up _____, but love covers over all _____."
3. **Matthew 5:44** – "But I tell you, love your _____ and _____ for those who persecute you."
4. **Romans 12:21** – "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome _____ with _____."

 **Reflection Questions:**

Have you ever said "I hate you" and not really meant it? Why do you think you said it?

Why do you think God compares hatred to murder in 1 John 3:15?

What would it look like if you responded to your brother with love instead of anger?

What can you do the next time you feel so angry that you want to say something hurtful?

Taking Responsibility: Consequences & Growth

Since words are powerful, part of growing and learning from this lesson is putting in extra effort to show love instead of hate. Choose at least **two** of these actions:

- ✓ **Scripture Writing:** Write **1 John 3:15 10 times** to help it sink in.
 - ✓ **Verse Memorization:** Memorize **Proverbs 10:12** and recite it to a parent or mentor.
 - ✓ **Apology Letter:** Write a letter to your brother explaining what you've learned and apologizing.
 - ✓ **Acts of Kindness:** Do **two** kind things for your brother this week (without being asked).
 - ✓ **Prayer Challenge:** Pray for your brother every day for a week, asking God to help you love him better.
-

Closing Thought

Hating your brother doesn't just hurt him—it hurts **you**, too. God calls us to love, even when it's hard. When you replace anger with kindness, you grow stronger in faith and character.