

## He Makes His Sun Rise on the Evil and the Good

*He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,  
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.  
(Matthew 5:45)*

### ***Introduction***

The Lord causes the sun to shine and rain to fall on all of His creation, and each part receives it in its own way. *True Christian Religion* (43:2) compares a thorn or nettle receiving the heat of the sun or refreshing rain to evil people and things receiving God's love not as *it* is but as *they* are. This is a beautiful analogy for the way the Lord loves us all, and gives us His love and wisdom. It is up to us whether or not to receive His gifts and use them well.

### ***Project Idea***

For this project, illustrate the sun shining or the rain falling and being received by two very different kinds of plants: a thorny bush and a fruit tree. Include this caption: He makes His sun to shine on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (see Matt. 5:45).

### ***Further Discussion***

The Lord does not withhold His love and wisdom from those who make bad choices. You may want to discuss the choice we have whether or not to receive the Lord's love and use it. We can give the world good "fruit" such as grapes and figs or bad fruit such as "thorns," as described in the gospel of Matthew: "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?"(7:16).

***NOTE:*** *Just as thistles can serve a useful purpose (such as preventing soil erosion), so the Lord brings something good out of every evil and also inspires evil people to do good things even if their intention is to serve themselves.*