

The Good Samaritan

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 10:25-37

MAIN POINT: Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.

KEY PASSAGE: Mark 6:34

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus tell parables? Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(10–15 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(25–30 MINUTES)

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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(25–30 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus was meeting with His followers when an expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Him a question. “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus pointed Him to the Scriptures, which say, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (See Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18.)

Then the lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Rather than give a list of whom the man should love, Jesus responded with a parable. Jesus’ story about the Good Samaritan surprised the people who heard it. The priest and Levite—men dedicated to serving God—neglected to help the man

in need. By showing mercy, the Samaritan (whom Jews considered a social outcast) proved to be a neighbor to the man in need. Jesus told the lawyer, “Go and do the same.”

Jesus did not directly answer the question, “Who is my neighbor?” The lawyer asked the wrong question; he was seeking to justify himself, to meet the minimum requirements of the Old Testament law with the hope of gaining eternal life. Rather, Jesus taught that the lawyer should love without limits and demonstrate love with action.

In this parable, we see the beauty of the gospel. Point out to the kids you teach that like the good Samaritan, God saw that we needed to be rescued. We were dead in our sin and unable to help ourselves. God showed His love when He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.

Jesus came to us and provided salvation, forgiveness, and everything we need. As we look to Him, He continues to take care of us. Emphasize that, as a result, God calls us to show His love for the world by loving others as He has loved us.



The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

• **Act it out:** Plan for a few adult leaders to act out the parable in the background as you tell the story. Use costumes and props like bandages and a stick horse to really make the story come alive.

• **Set up stations:** Set up stations around the room, each with a different prop or visual aid to tie into the sections of the story. Perhaps a Bible for Jesus asking what the Scriptures say, a ski mask for robbers, a bandage for the Samaritan, and so forth.

A Jewish lawyer asked Jesus a question: “Teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus answered, “What do the Scriptures say? What do you think is the answer?”

The lawyer replied, “The Scriptures say, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.’ And ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Jesus said, “That’s right. Do this, and you will have eternal life.”

Then the man asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus told a story to help the man understand.

“A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him. The robbers took everything he had, beat him up, and left him for dead on the side of the road.

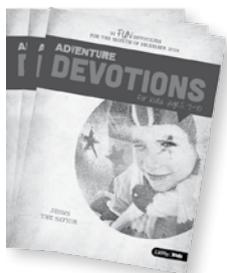
“A priest was traveling down the road when he saw the man lying there. But instead of helping the man, the priest passed by on the other side of the road.

“Then a Levite, or religious leader, came down the road. He saw the man lying there, but instead of helping the man, the Levite passed by on the other side of the road, too.

“Then a man from Samaria came down the road. Samaritans and Jews did not get along, but when he saw the man lying there, he helped him. The Samaritan bandaged the man’s wounds. He put the man on his donkey and took him to an inn where he could rest. The Samaritan took care of the man. Then he paid the innkeeper to care for the man.”

Jesus asked, “Which of these people was a real neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?”
The lawyer replied, “The one who helped the man.”
Jesus said, “Go and do the same!”

Christ Connection: Jesus’ story about the good Samaritan surprised the people who heard it. Like the good Samaritan, God saw that we needed to be rescued. He sent His Son to save us from sin. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose again so we can have eternal life. God calls us to show His love for the world by helping people in need.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Jesus wants us to love others as He has loved us. The greatest way we can love our neighbors is by sharing the good news about Jesus. (Matt. 28:19-20) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Good Samaritan

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 10:25-37

MAIN POINT: Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.

KEY PASSAGE: Mark 6:34

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus tell parables? Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them if they have any friends who live next door to them or across the street from them. Ask them how far away a person can live and still be a neighbor.

SAY • When we talk about neighbors, we usually think of the people who live fairly close to us; maybe on our street or within a few blocks. Today we will hear a story Jesus told to help a man understand who his neighbors are.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Neighborly World” activity page. Help kids draw a star on the map where they live. Then ask them to draw a heart on places they have been and circle places they would like to visit.

SAY • Jesus told a story to help people learn who are their neighbors. You might be surprised to know that anyone and everyone can be our neighbor. We’ll learn more about what that means soon.

- “Neighborly World” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Who's my neighbor?

Select a kid to be the *seeker*. She will close her eyes (you may wish to blindfold her) and wander the room calling out, "Who's my neighbor?" The other kids in the classroom should respond, "I am." The blindfolded player will attempt to tag other players by following the sounds of their voices to determine where they are. Kids who are not blindfolded should avoid being tagged. When a kid is tagged, he becomes the new *seeker*.

SAY • Who do you think our neighbors are? In our story today, we will hear about a man who needed help from a neighbor, but the people he would have expected to help all avoided him! We will learn more about who helped the man soon.

OPTION 2: Bandage relay

Form two team of kids. Instruct each team to select a representative to stand at one end of the room while the rest of the team lines up at the opposite end. One at a time, a player from each team will run to wrap one body part of his team's representative in tissue paper and then return to the line. Then the next player will run to wrap another body part. The first team to wrap both arms, both legs, and the torso of their team's representative wins.

SAY • In our story today, we will hear about a man who was injured as he traveled. Thankfully, another man stopped to bandage his wounds and get him to safety. Who do you think would do something so kind? We'll learn more soon.



• blindfolds (optional)

• tissue paper

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

• bandage

[Large Group Leader enters wearing hiking boots and a large backpack. His or her hand is wrapped in a bandage.]

LEADER • Well howdy there, camp-neighbors! It certainly is a beautiful day for storytelling. It's a beautiful day for neighbors too! I bet many of you are wondering what happened to my hand.

Well, I was trying to whittle a stick to have a pointy end for holding hot dogs and marshmallows over a fire. Sadly, my hand slipped while I was making it and I cut myself! Like I said before, it's a great day for neighbors. My neighbors in the next campsite heard me cry out in pain, and they rushed over with their first aid kit. They helped me wrap up the cut and now I'm doing A-OK. In fact, the whole experience reminded me of a parable, a special story, Jesus told. In the parable, a man was hurt, and a good neighbor helped him out too! Would you all

like to hear the story? [Allow responses.] Wonderful!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Remember our big picture question and answer?

Why did Jesus tell parables? Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom. Let's get ready to listen closely so we can see what this week's parable tells us about God and His kingdom.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • While Jesus was on earth, He told many parables.

Last week we heard a parable about the unmerciful servant. Who can tell me what that parable taught us about God? **God shows mercy to us so that we will show mercy to others.** That's right! And the week before that we learned about the parable of the sower. In that parable, we learned that **not everyone who hears the gospel believes it.** This week, our Bible story is called "The Good Samaritan." Let's listen closely to find out what it teaches us about God and His kingdom.

• Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 10:25-37. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "The Good Samaritan."

LEADER • Goodness gracious! I'm so glad that the man in the story had a good neighbor like the Samaritan to help him out.

If you were here a few weeks back, you may remember when Jesus met a woman from Samaria that the Jews and the Samaritans did not usually get

• Bibles
• "The Good Samaritan" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

along very well, but Jesus loves everyone. In Jesus' parable, only the Samaritan stopped to help the man who was attacked by robbers. To the Jewish listeners, that would have been very surprising. The two men who avoided the injured man were religious leaders. If anyone knew the right thing to do, it should have been them.

Jesus was teaching people that their neighbors are not just the people they like or the people who live near them, but anyone who is in need. The man who originally asked Jesus about eternal life wanted to know whom God expected him to love as himself. Jesus basically told him to love anyone and everyone as himself! In fact, this parable helps us understand that **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us**. The Samaritans and the Jews were enemies, but in Jesus' parable, the Samaritan man still chose to help the Jewish man. In the same way, we were all enemies of God because of our sin, but God still chose to help us.

Christ connection

LEADER • God helped us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for our sin. Jesus loved us even though we did not deserve His love. He chose to give up His life to save us from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, we receive eternal life—a promise that we will be with God forever!

Just as Jesus showed incredible love for us through the cross, He has called us to show incredible love for those around us. No person is too far away or too different to be our neighbor. The world is filled with

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

people, sinners like you and me, who need Jesus. We are called to be good neighbors to them and to love them as Jesus loved us—by putting their needs first and teaching them about God.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Mark 6:34.

LEADER • Our key passage reminds us that people are like sheep who need a shepherd. Jesus came to be our Good Shepherd and lead us to God. *Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom*, and He even died on the cross to pay for our sins. When we believe in Him, He reunites us with God.

Lead boys and girls in singing “He Saw a Huge Crowd.”

- Key Passage Poster
- “He Saw a Huge Crowd” song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever seen another person who needed help? Think about that question as you watch this quick video.

Show the “Unit 22, Session 3” discussion starter video. Ask your group how the kid in the video who tripped probably felt. Why didn’t the other kids in the video help? Has your group ever failed to help someone who needed it? What excuses do we tell ourselves to avoid helping others?

LEADER • **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** Sometimes we see people in need and assume someone else will take care of the problem. Other times we may think we are too busy to help someone else or that the problem is not that big of a deal. Jesus showed us incredible love by dying on the cross,

- “Unit 22, Session 3” discussion starter video

and because of His sacrifice, those who trust in Him are reunited with God. When we have the Holy Spirit, He helps us show love and compassion to others. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

• “The Kingdom of Heaven” song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • God’s love is a great reason to sing praises to Him. Won’t you join me in worshiping our wonderful God?

Sing together “The Kingdom of Heaven.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father, thank You that although we are sinners, we can love others because of Your love in our lives. You have shown us the greatest love of all through Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember the love You show and to love others with the same love.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- tape

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate index card. Tape the cards around the room. Invite kids to journey around the room to find the cards and then arrange them in the correct order.

SAY • Jesus had compassion on the crowds of people who came to Him. He showed His compassion by teaching them about God. He also showed His love and compassion for people by dying on the cross to make the way for us to return to God.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid and help them look up Luke 10:25-37. Read the passage together and then ask the following questions. You may decide to form two teams and use the questions to play a review quiz game.

Questions:

1. What question was Jesus asked at the start of the passage? (*“What must I do to have eternal life?”*
Luke 10:25)
2. How did Jesus respond at first? (*He asked the lawyer what the Scriptures said, Luke 10:26-28*)
3. What was the lawyer’s next question? (*“Who is my*

neighbor?” *Luke 10:29*)

4. What happened to the man in the parable? (*He was attacked by robbers and left to die, Luke 10:30*)
5. Who did not stop to help the man? (*Both a priest and a Levite passed by without helping the man, Luke 10:31-32*)
6. Who finally did help the man? (*a Samaritan man, Luke 10:33*)
7. What did the Samaritan do for the man? (*bandaged him, took him to an inn to rest and recover, and paid for his expenses; Luke 10:34-35*)
8. ***Why did Jesus tell parables? Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.***

SAY • Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan to help people understand that anyone who needs help is our neighbor. Jesus doesn't want us to only love some people but to love all people. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** He loves us with incredible love and willingly sacrificed His own life to rescue us from sin.

We can show incredible love by helping others and telling them about the good news of Jesus—that He died on the cross for our sin and rose again on the third day.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Wheelbarrow race

Form groups of two kids. Guide the pairs to line up on one side of the room. One kid in each pair will walk on his hands as his partner holds his ankles and follows behind him as if pushing a wheelbarrow.

When you say “go,” the pairs will race to the far side of

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

Tip: For girls wearing dresses or skirts, consider a “three-legged” race.

the room in this position. When they get there, they must switch places and race back. The first pair to run down and make it back wins.

SAY • In our race, you were “stuck” with your partner, and it actually forced you to go slower than you could if you ran alone. However, the race was more interesting and more fun because of the twist.

In life, we won’t always want to be “slowed down” by the people around us who need help, but Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors. That means helping those in need. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

OPTION 2: Assemble disaster kits

In the weeks leading up to this session, let parents know if you plan to use this activity. Ask them to donate first aid supplies and other disaster preparedness items, as well as gallon size ziplock bags to assemble the kits.

An example kit might contain gauze, medical tape, adhesive bandages, antibiotic ointment, scissors, moist towelettes, hand sanitizer, small flashlight, extra batteries, iodine water purification tablets, and a whistle.

Set up an assembly line in your room and assign kids to each station. As a group, assemble a number of disaster kits, and slip an encouraging note and pocket-size copy of the New Testament into each kit. Contact an emergency response or disaster relief team to find a location where you can donate the assembled kits.

SAY • In Jesus’ parable, the Samaritan stopped to help the injured man even though it meant spending extra time and money on a person he did not know. All around the world, different disasters can occur

- first aid supplies
- disaster preparedness items
- gallon size ziplock bags
- pocket-size New Testaments or Gospels of John

leaving people in dangerous places where they might not have what they need to survive or escape. With a simple disaster kit like one of these, we can help people we don't even know and share Jesus' love with them. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** Jesus loves us with incredible love that is willing to sacrifice.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture of a person whom they could show love to this week. Discuss different ways kids can show love to people around them.

SAY • Love is more than just a feeling. Love is a choice that brings about actions. For example, Jesus did not just say He loved us, He died on the cross for our sin to show us His love and make the way for us to experience life with God. In a similar way, if we want to obey Jesus and love as He loves, we will look for opportunities to show our love for people in the ways we help them.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking Jesus for the incredible ways He has shown His love for us. Ask God to help your group grow in their love for God and for the people around them.

- markers or crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible story coloring page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.