Use Week of:

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.

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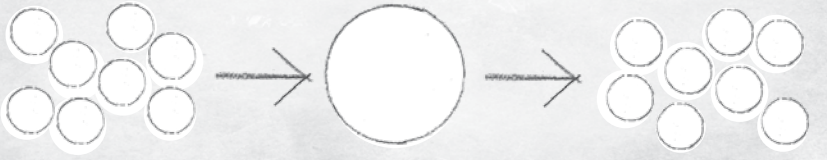

Leader BIBLE STUDY

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

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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.

Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com.* For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.*

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Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Act it out:** Ask a few adult leaders to act out the parable in the background as you tell the story. Use costumes and props such as bandages and a stick horse to make the story come alive.
- **Set up stations:** Set up stations around the room, each with a different prop or visual aid related to the parts of the story. Consider a Bible for Jesus asking about the Scriptures, a ski mask for robbers, a bandage for the Samaritan, and so forth.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

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.**"**

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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 *BIBLE EXPRESS!*

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover 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.*

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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, invite them to share about their immediate neighbors—the people who live next door or across the street. How well do they know them?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Parable Word Search" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Parable Word Search" on the activity page. Kids should find and circle the key words found in the Bible story about the parable of the good Samaritan.

SAY • Have you heard these words before? These are all words you will hear in our Bible story today about the parable of the good Samaritan.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Neighbors tag

Play with a group of 10 or more players. Instruct kids to form pairs. Each pair will stand side-by-side and spread out across the room. Choose one player to be *It*. *It* should try to tag her partner. To avoid being tagged, the partner should

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run to another pair and become a neighbor by standing to the right or left of them. The runner should shout out the name of the kid he is standing next to. The player on the opposite side becomes the runner whom *It* is trying to tag.

It may only tag a player who is not part of a neighbor pair. If *It* tags a player, she becomes a runner and the tagged player becomes *It*. Continue play as time allows.

SAY • In today's Bible story, someone asked Jesus a question: "Who is my neighbor?" Let's find out how Jesus answered.

OPTION 2: Neighbors logic puzzle

- "Neighbors Logic Puzzle" printable
- pencils

Give each kid a logic puzzle printable and a pencil. Challenge kids to listen closely to the clues you give to figure out which friend lives at each house. Kids should confirm or eliminate options by circling or crossing out the names at each house.

1. Maddox lives at an even-numbered house.
2. Hallie does not live at #2.
3. Sarah and Hallie both have neighbors on each side of them.
4. Jack and Hallie are not next-door neighbors.
5. Maddox and Sarah are not next-door neighbors.
6. Jack is a next-door neighbor to Sarah.

Ask kids who lives at each house. (*Jack, #1; Sarah, #2; Hallie, #3; Maddox, #4*)

SAY • That was challenging, but you figured out who the neighbors were. Today's Bible story is about neighbors, but not necessarily the people who live right next door to you. Let's get ready to hear more.

Transition to large group

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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
- backpack
- Bible
- first aid kit
- flashlight

[Large Group Leader enters wearing hiking boots and carries a backpack containing a Bible, a first aid kit, and a flashlight.]

LEADER • Hi, everyone. I am glad you're back. If you're new or in case you forgot, my name is [*your name*]. Welcome to my campsite. [*Hold up the flashlight and first aid kit.*] Can anyone think of why I might need these supplies while camping? [*Allow kids to respond.*]

Those are some good ideas. I like to have a first aid kit and flashlight when I go camping in case I need to rescue someone who is lost or help someone who is hurt. You wouldn't want to be out here without these things!

[*Remove backpack and retrieve the Bible.*] We have been hearing some parables that Jesus told. Today, we are going to hear a parable in which a man was attacked and left for dead on the side of a road. Let's find out who stopped to help him.

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Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • The whole Bible is a big story about Jesus. When He came to earth, Jesus sometimes told stories. A parable is a story used to teach a lesson. ***Why did Jesus tell parables?*** [*Allow kids to respond.*] That's right. ***Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.***

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Point to the timeline or big story circle.

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

LEADER • Let's look at some of the parables we've heard so far. The parable of the sower was about how people respond to the gospel. **Not everyone who hears the gospel believes it.**

Then, with the parable about the unmerciful servant, Jesus taught that **God shows mercy to us so that we will show mercy to others.** Today we are going to hear the parable of the good Samaritan. It is found in the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament.

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."

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

LEADER • ***Why did Jesus tell parables? Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.*** Jesus told the parable about the good Samaritan to answer a religious leader's question. The religious leader knew he was supposed to love his neighbor. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told this story to help the man understand.

In the story, a man was attacked by robbers and

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was left to die on the side of the road. Different people passed by the man—a priest, a Levite (a religious leader), and a man from Samaria (a Samaritan). Who do you think the people would have expected to help the man? [*Allow responses.*]

The people who heard the story were surprised that the Samaritan stopped to help. Jews did not get along with people from Samaria. In fact, Jews looked down on Samaritans.

The religious leader who talked to Jesus was an expert in the law. He wanted to know how to get eternal life. Maybe he hoped Jesus would give him a list of things to do and people to love. But Jesus' parable showed that believers should love everyone and show their love by helping. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** We don't get eternal life by checking off a to-do list. Eternal life is a gift from God that we receive by trusting in His Son, Jesus.

Christ connection

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.

LEADER • Jesus' story about the good Samaritan surprised the people who heard it. Like the good Samaritan, God saw that we needed to be rescued. Because of our sin, we were like the man lying in the ditch.

But God did not pass us by. He sent a Rescuer. God 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. He lifted us out of the ditch where we were left to die, and He takes care of us. He heals us and gives us life. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

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Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Read Mark 6:34 aloud. Lead the boys to read the key passage together. Then call for the girls to read the key passage.

- Key Passage Poster
- "He Saw a Huge Crowd" song

LEADER • According to Mark 6:34, where did Jesus meet the people? (*on the shore*) Jesus saw a huge crowd, and He didn't get back into the boat and row away from them. Jesus went to them. In the same way, Jesus came to us when He came to earth from heaven. Jesus came to rescue us from sin. Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls to sing "He Saw a Huge Crowd."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Is it always easy to show compassion to others? Is it always easy to love others? Watch this.

- "Unit 22, Session 3" discussion starter video

Show the "Unit 22, Session 3" discussion starter video. Then guide kids to discuss the following questions:

- How do you think Jacob felt when he tripped? Why didn't the other kids help him?
- What would you do in that situation? What excuses do we make for not helping?
- Who are we most like in the Bible story—the Samaritan, the religious leaders, or the injured man?
- Who is Jesus like in the story?

LEADER • **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** We can show love and compassion to others because God has shown love and compassion to us.

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 John 3:17 and read the verse aloud.

- "The Kingdom of Heaven" song
- Bible

LEADER • ***Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.*** Loving others is one way we show that God has

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rescued us from sin and death through His Son. Jesus' parables help us understand how believers should live and what the kingdom of God is like. Let's sing.

Sing together "The Kingdom of Heaven."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • God, we come to You with hearts of gratitude. Thank You for seeing us, helpless and dead in our sin, and coming to rescue us by sending Your Son. Help us to love others as You have so greatly loved us. You are a good and compassionate God. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

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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. Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

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Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- sticky notes
- marker

Write Mark 6:34 as words or phrases on separate sticky notes. Prepare one sticky note per kid. Distribute the sticky notes and challenge the kids to arrange themselves in the correct order. Then each kid should read her word or phrase to say the key passage from beginning to end.

If time allows, collect the sticky notes, mix them up, and redistribute them to play again.

SAY • When people came to Jesus, Jesus did not turn them away. He loved them. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker

Choose two volunteers to be artists. Give the volunteers chalk or markers. Call on other kids one at a time to retell the Bible story in their own words. As kids describe the story, the artists should illustrate it on the chalkboard or dry erase board.

For example, a kid might say, "A man came to Jesus and asked Him a question." Then the artist might draw two stick figures, one for Jesus and one for the man.

Allow kids to retell and illustrate the story as they

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remember it. When they finish, distribute Bibles and guide kids to find Luke 10:25-37. Review the Bible story. Choose new volunteers to be artists. Retell and illustrate the story again. Emphasize the following events:

- A Jewish lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"
- Jesus told a story to help the man understand.
- A man was attacked by robbers and left for dead.
- A priest passed by the man and did not help him.
- A Levite, or religious leader, passed by the man and did not help him.
- A Samaritan helped the man and took him to an inn.

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

SAY • Who was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers? (*the one who helped him*) **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

We are like the man lying on the side of the road. Like the good Samaritan, God saw that we needed to be rescued. He sent His Son to save us from sin. God calls us to show His love for the world by helping people in need.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

- large piece of paper
- tape
- markers or crayons (green, yellow, red, and blue)
- watch or timer
- pencils

OPTION 1: Helping hands collage

Tape a large piece of paper to a table or focal wall. Give each kid a crayon or marker. Make sure kids use four colors: green, yellow, red, and blue.

Announce that kids will have three minutes to trace their hands onto the paper as many times as they can. After three minutes, call for kids to stop drawing.

SAY • Have you ever heard the phrase *lend a helping hand*? It means to give someone help, especially with your hands. The Samaritan in today's Bible story helped

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the man who had been attacked and left to die.

In a similar way, Jesus came to help us when our sin separated us from God. Because of our sin, we deserve to die. But Jesus came to live the perfect life we did not live and to die the death we don't want to die. This is how God showed His love for us! **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

Collect the crayons and distribute pencils. Challenge kids to write on the outlines of the hands ways they can help others. For an added challenge, suggest kids write helping ideas based on the colors of the hands:

- Green—How can you help a friend or sibling?
- Yellow—How can you help a parent?
- Red—How can you help a stranger in your city?
- Blue—How can you help people in another country?

Allow kids to work for a few minutes. Then call them to stop and read each other's helping ideas. Encourage kids to find a way this week to help someone in need.

OPTION 2: First responder gift bags

- paper sacks
- markers
- Gospel of John pocket books
- bottled water
- individually-wrapped snacks
- pens
- coffee shop gift cards

Invite kids to make gift bags for first responders as a way of showing love to a neighbor. Distribute markers for kids to decorate paper sacks.

Provide small gifts for kids to put in the sacks. Consider pocket-sized Gospel of John books, bottled water, individually wrapped snacks, pens, or coffee shop gift cards. As kids work, review the Bible story.

Remind them that the Samaritan stopped to help the man who was hurt.

SAY • In the parable of the good Samaritan, we are like the man who was lying on the side of the road.

Our sin separates us from God, and we need

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someone to rescue us. The good news is that Jesus came to earth to rescue us from sin. He lived a perfect life and died the death we deserve. When we trust in Him as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.**

This week, pray for the first responders who will receive these gift bags. Pray for their safety as they go out into the community to help people in need. Arrange to deliver the gift bags to a local police station or fire department during the week.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Encourage kids to list some ways they can show love to others.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Love Your Neighbor" activity page, 1 per kid

SAY • **Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us.** What are some excuses you make to not help someone in need? This week, remember how God has loved you. Find a way to show love to a friend, family member, or stranger. Let's pray.

God, thank You for coming down to help us in our need. We did not deserve Your help, but You did not make excuses to leave us in our sin. You sent Your Son to live the perfect life we do not live and die the death we don't want to die. Give us opportunities to love others as You have loved us. Guide us and help us, Lord. We love You. Amen.

As time allows, invite kids to complete "Love Your Neighbor" on the activity page. Lead kids to decide how they could show love to the neighbor pictured. Answers may vary. Encourage kids to check a given response or write in their own.

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

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