



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U5# 2 1st-3rd Grade • Nov.5, 2023

Concept

Christ gives us the ability to love like He commands!

Goal

Students will learn that just as they are only acceptable to God through Christ, loving is possible only through dependence on Him. They will be encouraged to consider their own unloving attitudes and be motivated to ask God to help them love others sacrificially.

Passage

Luke: 10:25-37

Key Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 (NASB)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Samaritans" worksheet, 1/student• <i>The Illustrated Bible Atlas</i>• <i>The Baker Bible Dictionary for Kids</i>• <i>The Children's Illustrated Bible</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stir sticks, 1/student• Lifesavers, 1 roll/CT class <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Once Upon a Parable, Mack Thomas</i>	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Parable of the Shapes", 1 copy/child• Markers• Staplers• Staples

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U5#2 1st-3rd Grade • Nov.5, 2023

“This parable, unique to Luke, requires the utmost care in its interpretation. It must neither be over allegorized, as it was by the early church fathers, nor reduced to a simplistic meaning hardly worthy of Jesus’ teaching. Above all, it must be understood in its context, with attention to the questions of v. 25 and v. 29 and to Jesus’ application in vv. 36-37...”[1]

“...Christ was not telling the man that he would be saved by keeping the law. The man wanted to know how righteous he must be in order to enter the kingdom and what works he could do to prove that he had been made righteous. Christ in replying to his interrogation used the law lawfully. The law was primarily designed to be a revelation of the holiness of God (1 Peter 1:15-16). It also revealed the demands that God made of those who wished to be acceptable to Him and to walk in fellowship with Him (Matt. 5:48). This scholar in the law could examine the law and from the law would know that God is holy. Further, this law expert could know the demands that God’s holiness would make on those who desired to be in fellowship with Him- on those who wished to be admitted to Messiah’s kingdom... It is readily evident that that knowledge did not satisfy. The man’s knowledge only brought conviction, for he sought to ‘justify himself’ (Luke 10:29)... His defense was his ignorance.”[2]

A deep hatred existed between the Jews and Samaritans. While the Jews considered themselves pure descendants of Abraham, the Samaritans were a mixed race of Northern Kingdom Jews and a variety of other races. No doubt to the Jewish expert, the despised Samaritan would have been the least likely person to respond correctly in Jesus’ story. In fact, he betrayed himself at the end of the text. When unable to even utter the word “Samaritan,” he proved his lack of the very thing he pronounced the law commanded – love.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all know that we often have a religious mentality when it comes to genuine mercy shown to others. The cost is too high and/or there is a threat of personal loss or inconvenience. Praise God that His mercy is genuine and His grace is sufficient. Pray that your understanding of His love and grace will motivate and empower you to love as He did so that others may know Him. Pray that God will sensitize you to the needs of the students in your class.

[1] Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 8, 1984, Zondervan Corporation, p. 942.

[2] Dwight Pentecost, The Parables of Jesus, © 1982 by The Zondervan Corporation, p. 73.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Poetry Booklet – "Parable of the Shapes"**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student the two printed pages with the poem. Color the different shapes and staple the pages together to make a book. As the students work on the booklet, discuss the reasons why we decide not to love some people. Jesus loves everyone just the same. He wants to help us be the "In Spite-of Man" character in the poem.
- **Research – "Samaritans"**
 - **Instructions:** Group two to four students together and give each group a "Samaritans" question sheet to work on together. Have one student be the scribe and others look up the answers in the provided books. They will share the information they gather during the INTRODUCTION. (This is a great place to encourage students who already have a lot of knowledge.)

Introduction Lg. Group

From the study you did in the Activity Station, how would you describe the relationship between the Samaritans and the Jews during the time of Jesus? (Use question #2 as a guide for the discussion.) So a Jew would be unlikely to help a Samaritan or a Samaritan a Jew.

Transition

We're going to see a funny skit about two fictitious groups of people who hate each other and how they respond when a need arises.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama – "The Stripehead Who Loved," skit performed by the Drama Team

Transition

Many of you know that Jesus told a story or parable that is very much like the skit. Let's go read that parable.

Lesson Lg. Group

One day an expert in the Old Testament law went to Jesus and asked Him a question. Follow along while I read Luke 10:25-28. As I read, think about the question the man asked and the answer Jesus gave him. See if you can figure out why the expert in the law asked this question and why Jesus answered his question the way He did.

- What was the question in verse 25 the expert in the law asked Jesus? (What do I have to do to live forever?) The man asked Jesus what HE had to DO to go to heaven. And what did Jesus say? (Luke 10:26.) "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" In other words, "You are an expert in the law, so what does it say?" The man answered with our key verse for today, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Lesson Continued

Jesus said, “You are right. Now go and do that.”

- Do you think Jesus believed the man could love God with all his heart and all his soul and all his strength and all his mind and that he could love others as much as he loved himself?
- Do you think Jesus answered the man’s question? (Allow time for discussion) Jesus did answer the question. The law expert believed that he could keep the law and earn eternal life, so Jesus said to go and do it.

Quickly summarize the parable of the Good Samaritan from verses 30-37. (Discuss about the relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans, and how interesting it is that Jesus used this parable) It was the Samaritan in the parable who turned out to be the one who loved the injured Jew NOT the religious Jewish men. The man had to admit that the despised Samaritan who loved the injured man was the neighbor. Jesus’ point in telling this parable was that a neighbor is anyone who loves the person next door or across the world, their best friend or worst enemy. (Talk about how hard it is for us to love our neighbors)

Our key verse last week was, “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Jesus said if we want to have a relationship and eternal life with Him, we have to be perfect. The religious leaders thought that they were better than anybody else because they were so good at keeping their rules. But through His teaching, Jesus showed that their hearts were full of sin. So, if no one can be perfect, why do you think He told the expert in the law to go do what was impossible? (Allow students to consider this—the man wanted to be good enough to be in relationship with God.) So Jesus said, “If you want eternal life, you have to do everything the law says and you have to do it perfectly.” Jesus made it obvious that this guy didn’t even come close to keeping God’s law perfectly.

So if God’s standard is perfection and we can’t be perfect, how do people come into a relationship with Him? Would anyone like to tell us? (God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for all our sins. Jesus died on the cross for everyone. We can tell Him we know we aren’t perfect, we can’t love God or other people perfectly, we sin every day and need His forgiveness). When we tell Him we want a relationship with Him and thank Him that Jesus died for our sin, He will forgive us and begin a relationship with us. Remember our key verse, Read Luke 10:27. This is God’s standard and we can’t keep it. Only Jesus loves perfectly, so the only way to God is through Jesus.

Let’s get up and do an activity.

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity# 3 Sm. Groups

Optional Activity

Game – Pass the Lifesaver [1]

Goal: FUN and learning a quality of a good neighbor, patience.

Instructions: Make two teams of 5-8 players each time makes a line. Give everyone a stir stick to hold between only two fingers with the end pointing out. The first member of each team has a Lifesaver on their stick. They must pass the Lifesaver from their stick to the next teammate on their team. The first team to finish wins! If a Lifesaver falls to the floor, the person who dropped it must raise their hand and the “overseer” of the game gives that person a fresh Lifesaver on their stir stick.

[1] http://www.eventwise.co.uk/asp/Game_145.asp.

Let's get into small groups to finish up and pray.

- So once we have received God's forgiveness, do we love God with all our heart all the time? Why does this seem so hard to do?
- Do we love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves? Why does this seem so hard to do?
- What prevents us from loving God and others well? (We are so selfish that we can't even love our good friends more than ourselves.)
- We may not pass somebody in need on the road, but every week in this class alone we have plenty of opportunities to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Give an example of meeting someone you don't know at Oasis: Introduce yourself and ask the person's name. If that's difficult for you, admit that to God and ask Him to show you how and help you to be a good neighbor.)
- If you pray before you come to class that God would help you love others, what are some ways He may prompt you to do that? Maybe it will be simply to say “hi,” maybe to tell that person your name or ask their name, or to look for him/her and sit with him/her the next week.

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray now and thank God for sending His perfect Son to pay for our sin. We can ask Him to show us how and to help us love others as He loves us.

Good Neighbor: instructions: read the "good neighbor," pages 43-46, Once Upon a Parable and then break into small groups.

Help Your Neighbor Instructions: Get into pairs and sit on the floor back to back, linking arms. The object is to help each other stand up while their arms are linked together. When pairs have been able to stand up, have them get together with another pair and try to stand up the same way with all four.