

LESSON PLAN

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

Lesson Memory Verse: Luke 10:27 - “And He answering said, “**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.**” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To teach each child to love others as he loves himself.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

Key (for Attention): Love is an important word to God, but it means many different things to people. Can you give me some examples of the meaning of love? (They may suggest the love that their parents have for them when they receive a toy or game from them. Or, they may think of the special interest some girl has for a boy. They might say that love is to hug and kiss a parent or friend. Maybe they will remember John 3:16 and give God’s love as an example. They might even give the example of a person’s love that leads him to help someone who is in trouble.) Our love for others is the kind of love that we will talk about in our Bible story today.

Your examples of love were very good. (Your discussion on love should not come to any conclusion. It is only to arouse the children’s interest and to prepare them for the lesson.) In today’s lesson we are going to learn what God expects of us when He commands us to love our neighbor. There are 612 commands in the Old Testament, but the two greatest commands in the whole Bible are Jesus’ words in our memory verse. Let’s see if you can tell me what these two commands are. You will find them in Luke 10:27.

HE (for Authority): Help the children find Luke 10:27 in their Bibles or print the verse in large letters on a sheet of paper or on a poster board. Use both capital letters and small letters, because young children have difficulty reading capital letters. Make sure the children see the two commands in this verse. Today’s lesson will illustrate the second command. The first command is illustrated by Luke 10:38-42. Be sure the children realize that they cannot keep the second command until they love God by accepting Jesus as their Savior. When Jesus is their Savior, He will give them the power to love their neighbors even as they love themselves. Also help them to understand what it means when we love someone as we love ourselves, i.e., whatever we would do for ourselves, or whatever we would like others to do for us, is what we should do for others. Then explain who our “neighbor” is by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus told this story to a religious lawyer who wanted to know who his neighbor was,

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our story today we will learn about three kinds of people that did not love their neighbor as God commanded them, but there was one person that did love his neighbor.

I. The Thieves - Luke 10:30

The thieves did not love God or the people that He had made. They ignored God as if He never lived and cared less for His commands. As far as they were concerned, the world existed for their benefit. They were interested in people, but not for the right reasons. They were interested in what they could steal from them. They loved themselves and lived for their own pleasures. They saw a man that was alone on the road to Jericho and decided that they would rob him. They beat him, took away all that he owned and left him to die. They did not care what happened to him as long as they got his money and the things that they wanted from him. This man was their neighbor, but they failed to love him.

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WE: We may not be as cruel as these thieves, but if we steal anything from someone, do we show love to that person? No, even if we steal only a pencil or a few pennies, we show that we love ourselves more than that person.

II. The Priest - Luke 10:31

The first person to see this man lying on the side of the road was a priest. He was a religious man who was supposed to help people come to God, but this priest showed that he had no love for this dying man. He did not even stop to see what he might do to help him, but walked on the other side of the road. This man was his neighbor, but he did not love this dying man.

WE: We are supposed to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. If you were beaten, robbed and left to die on the side of the road, would you want someone to help you? Yes, of course. So then, we must try to help people who are in trouble. And if you are afraid to help someone, you can always call 911, or have someone call it for you, so help will be sent to this person. We must do what we can to help people who have a desperate need

III. The Levite - Luke 10:32

The next person to see this man dying on the road was a Levite. He was a member of a tribe devoted to serve God in religious work. He appeared to be the person to help this man in his great need. The Levite looked at the badly hurt man, but did nothing to help him. Then he crossed over to the other side of the road and left him. This dying man was a neighbor to the Levite, but the Levite did not show love to him. He was no better than the priest.

WE: We go to Sunday School and church, but do we try to help people that need our help? We need to love others as we love ourselves. We must not act like the Levite or the priest. God wants us to love others by helping them when they are in serious need.

IV. The Samaritan - Luke 10:33-35

Then a Samaritan travelled on this road and he saw the man that was dying. What should he do? Since Samaritans and Jews hated each other and seldom did they help each other, he could have left him on the road like the others. But the Samaritan in Jesus' story was different. He loved his Jewish enemy who had been beaten up. The Bible says he "had compassion on him," and as a result he helped him. How did he help his enemy? (Let the pupils find the things that he did in verses 34-35 if they are old enough to read, otherwise tell them.) He has been called the "good Samaritan" because he was so good to his enemy when his enemy needed his help. The dying man was a neighbor to the Samaritan and the Samaritan treated him as a good neighbor should; he took care of him.

WE: We should love our neighbors, even those that treat us badly, like the Good Samaritan treated his neighbor. We will need God's help to do it. To get His help we must be saved and then we must obey Him. When we do this, God will give us the love that we need to love our neighbors.

BE (for Action): Who are your neighbors? (Anyone we meet, even our enemies) Do you want to be a Good Samaritan to your neighbors? One of the best ways to love your neighbors is to kindly tell them about Jesus and how He saved you from going to Hell. Ask them if they are absolutely certain that Jesus has saved them from Hell. If they do not know that for sure, tell them to read the Gospel of John and pray that God will make it clear to them. If you do this, you will love your neighbor as yourself.