

Large Group/Small Group

April 24, 2024

Bible Passage: Luke 10:25–37
(Parable of the Good Samaritan)



God Is Love

Remember Verse

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9


LESSON OVERVIEW

EXPLORE//
10 minutes



Option 1: Fix 'Em Up (for younger kids)


SUPPLIES

- People cutouts* or dolls (1 per child)
- Adhesive bandages (1–2 per child) 
- Elastic bandages (1 per child)
- Optional: scissors (to cut out People), doctor's kit (bag containing toy stethoscope, toy thermometer, gloves, etc.)

Option 2: Fancy

Bandages (for younger and older kids)

SUPPLIES

- White or clear adhesive bandages (1–2 per child) 
- Markers
- Optional: glitter, stickers

Option 3: Be My Neighbor (for older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Neighborhood images*
- Neighborhood Photo Example*
- Butcher paper (4'–5')
- Tape or glue
- Markers

DISCOVER//
30 minutes



Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image*
- Remember Verse animation*
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

Connect Activity:

Bandage Wars

SUPPLIES

- Connect Question image*
- Connect Activity image*
- Toilet paper (1 roll for every 2 children)
- Tape (1 roll for every 2 children)
- Optional: elastic bandages (1 roll for every 2 children), bandage fasteners (multiple)

The Big God Story

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video*
- Timeline image*
- Timeline animation*
- Bibles
- Puppet theater
- Puppet cutouts*
- Scissors
- Glue
- Craft sticks (5, large)

Worship as Response

SUPPLIES

- Response cards*
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Pens or markers

RESPOND//
15 minutes



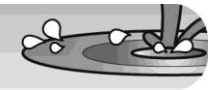
Reflect

Created to Love

SUPPLIES

- Mirrors (full-length or handheld)
- Window crayons (or dry erase markers)

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 8*
- Bible
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens or markers

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 7
2018–19 Scope and Sequence
TruStory How It Works
Small Group Enhancements**

At Home Weekly: Lesson 7

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

Inspire *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

At a busy intersection, a homeless man had fallen. He lay bleeding on the grass. Green light: Cars buzzed past him. Red light: Drivers stared straight ahead. A man in a black Mercedes swerved through the traffic, blocking it, and ran to the homeless man. The silver-haired man from the Mercedes was wearing an expensive suit. He was a lawyer.

"Are you okay?" the lawyer asked the man, pained at the sight of his injuries.

"No," replied the man. "I have no home. I have no friends. And I have no God."

Breathless, the lawyer ran to his car. He wept as he called 911. He returned to the homeless man with a water bottle and some food. Others, inspired by the lawyer's compassion, also pulled over to help.

I know this lawyer very well. Throughout his life he's been rejected by many friends and associates because of the often-unpleasant realities of his profession. Yet he was the only one who stopped to help this injured man. He was the only one to weep over the outcast man's condition. He was the only one to act as Christ would have acted. God created us to have compassion and to act on it. God is love.

Tori Funkhouser

Tru Team

Equip *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

God is love, and He created us to love too. Jesus taught on this subject constantly, and the story of the good Samaritan gives a great example of this fact. In order to add to the impact of His messages, Jesus often included a "surprise" in the stories He told. The big surprise in this parable was that the "good guy" was a Samaritan.

The Jews detested the Samaritan people. They were considered "half-breeds," Jews who had intermarried with conquered people from other nations. The Bible clearly says in Deuteronomy 7 that when the Jews came into the land given to them by God, they were not to intermarry with foreign peoples. This wasn't an ethnic superiority issue but a spiritual issue. If the Jews intermarried, they could be tempted to worship other gods. This happened time and time again when Israel failed to obey God's command.

In 586 BC, the nation of Babylon captured the nation of Israel. When Israel returned from this devastating 70-year captivity, they had finally learned the lesson about keeping themselves separate. Thus they fiercely guarded their ethnic purity. By Jesus' time, the "pure" Jews in the south despised the Samaritans in the north and would have nothing to do with them.

When Jesus used a Samaritan as an example of someone who showed true compassion, it was especially painful for the Jewish leaders to hear. In fact, it was so painful that the religious leader could not even mutter the name "Samaritan" in answer to Jesus' final question about who showed mercy. Through the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus shows us that God is love and desires for us to demonstrate His love to everyone.

Support *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan, we too can be too unloving, too busy, or too lazy to care about those around us. This selfishness comes from our fallen nature. However, we weren't created to be this way. We were created to be like Christ. We were created to love everyone.

When we're redeemed through relationship with Jesus, we receive a new nature. The Holy Spirit within us starts to permeate our whole being. When we've been redeemed, our true nature is to love like Christ loves!

This week, meditate on this amazing fact. As a follower of Christ, your true nature is that of wholehearted love for God, others, and yourself. Ask God to fill you with the knowledge that you belong to Him—and that, as His child, you're designed to love, like He loves.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

EXPLORE//10 minutes




Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

Bandages and Neighbors

In these EXPLORE sections, kids will consider bandaging and caring for others.

Option 1: Fix 'Em Up (for younger kids)

SUPPLIES

- People cutouts (see Resources) or dolls (1 per child)
- Adhesive bandages (1–2 per child) 
- Elastic bandages (1 per child)
- Optional: scissors (to cut out People), doctor's kit (bag containing toy stethoscope, toy thermometer, gloves, etc.)

PREPARE AHEAD


If you're using them, print the People cutouts (at least one cutout per child) and cut them out.

RELATE

In the parable of the good Samaritan, a traveling man was hurt and needed care. The Samaritan cared for him and became an example of someone who loved as God loves. As your kids arrive today, encourage them to explore the medical supplies and to practice caring for the People cutouts or dolls by putting bandages on them. If you have a toy doctor's kit, they can use the stethoscope to check for a heartbeat, etc.

Option 2: Fancy Bandages (for younger and older kids)

SUPPLIES

- White or clear adhesive bandages (1–2 per child) 
- Markers
- Optional: glitter, stickers

RELATE

In today's portion of The Big God Story, an unexpected hero—a Samaritan and enemy to the Jews—showed love to his neighbor by caring for his injuries. Encourage your kids to create “fancy bandages” by decorating the adhesive bandages you've supplied. Invite the children to stick the adhesive bandages on themselves or perhaps trade and share with a friend.

Option 3: Be My Neighbor (for older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Neighborhood images (see Resources)
- Neighborhood Photo Example (see Resources)
- Butcher paper (4'-5')
- Tape or glue
- Markers

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Neighborhood images and Neighborhood Photo Example.

SET UP

Tape a section of butcher paper to the wall and draw a street down the center.

RELATE

Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to expand His listeners' idea of what it means to be a good neighbor. Point out the butcher paper on the wall and tell your kids it represents an imaginary street on which they can design a neighborhood. They can tape or glue the printed images to the street or draw their own. Also encourage them to draw other things that might be found in the neighborhood, such as dogs or cats or trees. As the kids create their neighborhood, ask: **How many of you live in a neighborhood with lots of other kids? What sorts of things do you like to do with the kids in your neighborhood?**

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

DISCOVER// 30 minutes



Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image (see Resources)
- Remember Verse animation (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." 1 John 4:9

Connect

QUESTION

What's your favorite thing to do with the kids in your neighborhood?

Activity: Bandage Wars

SUPPLIES

- Connect Question image (see Resources)
- Connect Activity image (see Resources)
- Toilet paper (1 roll for every 2 children)
- Tape (1 roll for every 2 children)
- Optional: elastic bandages (1 roll for every 2 children), bandage fasteners (multiple)

RELATE

Did any of you do an activity with bandages today? That's great! That means you're warmed up and ready for the game we're going to play now.

Have the kids pair up and choose one person to be the injured person and one to be the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Give each EMT a roll of toilet paper and a roll of tape (or a roll of elastic bandages and a few fasteners). At "Go!" have each EMT use the toilet paper or bandages to wrap his patient from head to toe. The pair that finishes bandaging the patient from head to toe first wins. (If you have an especially large group, you can choose two pairs to come onto the stage and compete against each other.)

The Big God Story

Bible Passage: Luke 10:25–37

Storytelling Technique: Puppets

God Is Love

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video (see Resources)
- Timeline image (see Resources)
- Timeline animation (see Resources)
- Puppet theater (for directions on building one, see Puppet Theater Directions [see Resources])
- Puppet cutouts (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Scissors
- Glue
- Craft sticks (5, large)

SET UP

If you don't already have a puppet theater, follow the directions to make one. Or create a simple theater by throwing a blanket or sheet across the backs of a few chairs. Print and cut out the puppets and glue them to the large craft sticks. You will glue certain characters back-to-back so they can be flipped over to reveal another character. Glue the robber puppet to his own stick, but glue the following characters back-to-back:

injured man and child
priest and principal
Levite and class president
Samaritan and bully

Ask a helper (or helpers) in advance to stand or kneel behind the theater curtain and "act out" the narrative using the puppets.

RELATE

Today you spent some time thinking about your own neighbors and neighborhoods. What's something that's really cool about your neighborhood? Invite kids to answer. **That's great! Today we're going to hear more about exactly who is our neighbor. Before we do, let's pray together.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be

still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Jesus often told parables—earthly stories with heavenly meanings—when people would ask Him questions. One day, while Jesus and His disciples were traveling, religious leaders came to test Jesus about how well He knew God’s Word. Invite children to open their Bibles to Luke 10. Read Luke 10:25 aloud as children follow along.

Jesus asked this religious leader what Scripture said about this. Have children follow along in Luke 10:27 as you read the verse aloud. **Jesus told the man he was right! But that wasn’t enough for the religious leader. He asked Jesus** (have children follow along in verse 29), **“Who is my neighbor?”** (v. 29).

You see, at this time, the Jewish people lived under the rule of the Roman government. They weren’t always free to do what they wanted and often had to pay horribly high taxes to Rome. Plus, the Jews had created some bad relationships—especially with the Samaritans. The Jews and Samaritans had hated each other for hundreds of years. So when this man asked, “Who is my neighbor?” he was trying to find out whom exactly he needed to love. He was probably hoping that Jesus, as a Jew, would tell him he only needed to love other Jews. But that isn’t what Jesus said because Jesus wanted us to know that God is love.

Instead of answering the religious leader directly, Jesus shared a parable. These puppets will help me retell it! Point out the theater. **Jesus’ parable went something like this:** Imagine that there was a man traveling along a road (injured man puppet strolls along). **As he walked, robbers attacked him and left him nearly dead** (show robber puppet attacking injured man).

Some time after the attack, a priest came by, but he didn’t stop to help (priest puppet pops up, whistling and traveling along the road. He acknowledges the man and passes by). **Was he mean? Lazy? Too busy? Well, maybe. But there could have been another reason. You see, priests had to follow very specific rules in order to do their jobs. If the priest stopped to help the man, he would have been considered “unclean.” That would be very inconvenient! After this, a Levite, who also had a job in the Jewish temple** (Levite puppet pops up. Humming, he travels along the road. Like the priest, he acknowledges the man but chooses to ignore him), **passed by and ignored the man too.**

Do you think Jesus’ parable ends there? Nope! The next person who passed by was a Samaritan. And the Jews hated the Samaritans! When Jesus mentioned a Samaritan, his audience probably cringed. For fun, have the kids pretend to cringe. Read Luke 10:33–35 aloud.

The Samaritan saw the man on the road but didn’t ignore him. The Samaritan stopped and bandaged his injuries. Then the Samaritan took the man to an inn (like a hotel) and made sure he would be completely cared for. Wow! To the hearers of this parable, Jesus made the “bad guy” the hero! Why? Because Jesus was teaching them about love—that God is love.

Let’s imagine it another way: Say this story wasn’t about a traveler but a kid at your school. Flip the injured man puppet over to reveal the child. **Let’s say that this kid broke his leg during recess. Then the recess bell rang, and everyone ran inside without helping him.**

Now picture that instead of a priest, your principal (flip the priest puppet to reveal a principal) **was having such a busy day she couldn’t stop to help the injured student. That would be surprising and strange!**

Then picture that the Levite was someone really popular—maybe a class president. Flip the Levite to reveal the class president. **Now, what if this student was late to class and had seen the principal pass by the hurt kid? It wouldn’t be that weird for her to shrug and assume the principal had it under control, right?**

Well, what if Jesus was telling this story and said that the third traveler—instead of a Samaritan—was your school’s bully. Flip the Samaritan to reveal the bully. **What if the bully was the only one who took care of the hurt kid and, in so doing, became the hero of the story? That would be difficult to hear!**

Through this unexpected twist in the story, Jesus was making a point. The Jews thought priests were the best examples of how to live because they followed the Law of the Old Testament. However, Jesus wanted people to know He cared more about who a person was on the inside than what a person did on the outside. The priest may have looked like a good guy, but he was more concerned about his job as a priest than with loving others. The priest may have seemed like he had it all together, but he didn’t love his neighbor because He had

forgotten that God is love.

Jesus cares about who we are on the inside. He cares about what's going on in our hearts. He cares that we love everyone—not just the people we naturally want to love. Here's the good news: God created everyone—even that person who is so hard to love! Sure, we may have a hard time loving them sometimes, but we can always go to God and ask Him for His help because God is love. In those moments, God reminds us of His great love for us and gives us the power to love others. Share a story about a time that God called you or someone you know to love someone unexpected.

Worship as Response

This time allows kids to respond to God through worship. Make plans for your worship time, but prepare yourself and your team to hold them loosely if the Holy Spirit leads the group in a different direction.

SUPPLIES

- Response cards (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Pens or markers

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Response cards and cut them apart. Tape or glue the cards with the negative characteristics (e.g., selfishness) to the blank cards titled “In Christ we have been ...” (or print the cards front to back). The children will start out reading the side with the word and then flip over to the other side, where they'll write their “Created to Love” after the phrase.

RELATE

God showed us His amazing love by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world to die for our sins. Our sins had separated us from God. Our sins made us enemies of God. But, Jesus came to die for His enemies. The Bible says, “Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). Jesus showed us His perfect love on the cross and made the way for us to be brought into the family of God. He shows us how to love our neighbors and gives us the ability to care for our enemies.

Some things get in the way of our ability to love everyone. For instance, if we're selfish, we might have a hard time sharing with others. Sharing is a really beautiful expression of love. Or, if we struggle with being too busy, we might not have time to care for others or spend time with God.

As we move into a time of response, I want you to think about each of these words (show the kids the cards). Do you feel like any of these actions get in the way of your being able to love others? Is there something stopping you? When you feel you've identified with a word, come up and choose that card and take it back to your seat.

Once the kids choose (or create) their cards, encourage them to spend some time praying and asking God to remind them who He made them to be—people who love others as God loves them. Have the kids write “Created to Love” under “In Christ we have been ...” on the back of the card. If they want, they can pin their cards to the prayer wall.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children respond to what the Holy Spirit is teaching them as they reflect on the day's portion of The Big God Story, engage in relationship, and create meaningful pieces of art individually or together.

Reflect: God Is Love

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER KIDS

- **In Jesus' parable, who were the three different people who came upon the traveler?** Luke 10:30–34
- **What may have been some reasons the priest and the Levite didn't stop?**
- **How do you think the expert of the Law felt as he listened to Jesus' story?**
- **Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What point was He trying to make?**
- **Whom does God love?** John 3:16
- **As God's children, whom were we created to love?** John 13:34–35

QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

- **In Jesus' parable, who were the three different people who came upon the traveler?** Luke 10:30–34
- **What may have been some reasons the priest and the Levite didn't stop?**
- **How do you think the expert of the Law felt as he listened to Jesus' story?**
- **Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What point was He trying to make?**
- **Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan to be the hero of the story?**
- **Whom might we hold grudges against? How is it possible for us to love them?** 1 John 4:7–8
- **Do you think it's ever difficult for God to love us?**
- **Read 1 John 3:16. How did the Samaritan make a sacrifice for the injured man?**
- **What would it look like, in today's society, to make a sacrifice for someone else?**
- **Whom does God love?** John 3:16
- **As God's children, whom were we created to love?** John 13:34–35

Created to Love

Each kid will draw an outline of himself in a mirror and then ponder how God has shown love to him.

SUPPLIES

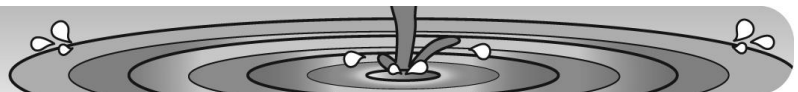
- Mirrors (full-length, several; or hand-held, 1 per child)
- Window crayons (or dry erase markers)

RELATE

It can be difficult to love others if we aren't receiving love. The only one who can truly love us and give us the love we need is God. That's one reason it's so important to spend time with God! If we aren't letting Him love us, it's nearly impossible for us to love others.

Today we're going to spend some time thinking about how God is love and He loves us. Let's each take a crayon or marker and go up to a mirror or take a mirror. You can spend some time looking at yourself in the mirror, and then trace your face on the mirror. While you look into the mirror, spend some time praying. Ask God to reveal how He has shown you love. Then write those things on the mirror. When they're done, spend some time talking with your kids about the words they wrote. Ask them how they can use the qualities they wrote about to love others. Spend some time discussing this as a group.

BLESS// 5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 8 (see Resources)
- Bible
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens or markers

RELATE

Open a Bible and read John 13:34–35:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Hand each child a sheet of paper and a pen. Have kids write a short, encouraging note (one or two sentences) that someone their age would benefit from hearing. (Example: “You are made in the image of God. You are loved.” Or, “God loves you. You can trust Him.”) Then, have kids sign their names at the bottom, crumple up their paper, and throw their papers in the middle of the group. Have each child pick up a crumpled note and read it out loud to the group. Kids can keep their notes when they leave. Remind children that kind, encouraging words can be one way we show love to others.

Finish this time with the following words of blessing:

May God fill you with His love so you know how completely He loves you. May God’s love in you pour out onto others.

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.