

April 21, 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

CONNECT//
10 minutes



Alphabet Getting-to-Know-You

SUPPLIES

- None

GATHER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Move-About Verse

SUPPLIES

- None

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video*, Investigate Questions*
- Bibles
- Oil pastels
- Butcher paper (8', black)
- Masking or painter's tape

Discussion Questions

RESPOND//
15 minutes



Shapes of Prayer

SUPPLIES

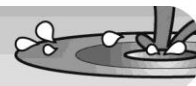
- Modeling clay
- Toothpicks (1 per child)
- Optional: worship music

(Optional) Ping-Pong Bounce

SUPPLIES

- Ping-pong balls (20–30)
- Empty tissue boxes (2, rectangular)
- Belts (2)
- Scissors

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards*

- At Home Weekly: Lesson 8*
- Bible
- Tape
- Markers
- Prayer requests and reminders (examples: news articles printed from the Internet, your church bulletin, pictures of people from your church, etc.)

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

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

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.

CONNECT//10 minutes



Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.

Alphabet Getting-to-Know-You

Play a getting-to-know-you game based on the alphabet with your group today.

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What's one story you could hear over and over again?**

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Explain that they're going to play a getting-to-know-you game based on the alphabet. Start by saying something about yourself that begins with "A," such as, "I'm an artist." Then invite the child to your left to say something about herself that begins with "B," such as, "I live in Bristol." Go around the circle allowing each person to say something about himself that begins with the next letter in the alphabet. Watch out: Some letters might make this game more difficult ... or even silly!

GATHER//30 minutes



Children experience and learn more about God through prayer, storytelling from The Big God Story, an investigation into God's Word, and creative ways to memorize Scripture.

Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The 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

Game: Move-About Verse

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

Encourage kids to get ready for an active Remember Verse game. First, review the verse a few times with children. Then invite kids to say it while moving about in one of these ways:

- running in place
- doing jumping jacks
- moving in slow motion
- tip-toeing across the room
- skipping across the room

Storytelling

Bible Passage: Luke 10:25–37

Storytelling Technique: Oil Pastels

God Is Love

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video (see Resources), Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Oil pastels
- Butcher paper (8', black)
- Masking or painter's tape

SET UP

Tape the black butcher paper to the walls of the room.

RELATE

Who is Jesus? Invite kids to answer. **That's right: Jesus is God's Son whom God loves very much. While Jesus was on earth, He used stories to teach people about God and His Word. These stories were called parables. Jesus often told parables to help those who were listening understand something very important about God. Today's parable teaches us one of the most important things we can know about God: that God is love.**

A couple of weeks ago we heard the parable about a wise builder and foolish builder. What does God require? Invite answers. **Yes, He requires obedience. He wants us to hear and obey His words. Let's ask Him to teach us today.** Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Invite your kids to open their Bibles to Luke 10:25. **One day, while Jesus was teaching, a man asked Jesus a question. This man had heard about Jesus and everything He was saying about God. The man knew a lot about God's Law, so he decided to test Jesus and what He knew about the Law.**

The man asked Jesus, "What must I do to receive eternal life?" How would you answer this question? Encourage kids to answer. **Those are great thoughts. Let's hear what Jesus said.** Invite kids to read Jesus' question in Luke 10:26. **In response, Jesus said, "What is written in the Law?" Why do you think Jesus asked this question?** Pause for answers.

Let's see what happened next. The man said to Jesus, "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (v. 27). What do you think about the man's answer? Interact with answers. **Jesus told the man he was right! God is love, and He wants us to love Him and love others.**

The man wasn't satisfied with the answer Jesus gave. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (v. 29). Jesus answered this question with a parable. Using the oil pastels, begin to draw on the black butcher paper—starting at the beginning. Draw a line representing a path. Walk slowly as you storytell, dragging your oil pastel along the paper.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead" (v. 30). Draw a stick figure lying down on the path.

"A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side" (v. 31). Walk back to the beginning and draw another line as you walk along the butcher paper. Continue drawing the line past the stick figure. Walk all the way to the end. Draw a stick figure at the end of the path, representing the priest.

"So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw the man, passed by on the other side" (v. 32). Walk back to the beginning and repeat the same actions, this time drawing a stick figure at the end of the path to represent the Levite.

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him" (vv. 33–34). Walk back to the beginning and repeat the same action. When you get to the stick figure lying down, draw another stick figure representing the Samaritan man next to him. Draw an arrow from the two figures all of the way to the end. Draw a large square representing the inn. Draw a stick figure inside of the square, representing the hurt man.

"The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have'" (v. 35). Draw another stick figure inside the square, representing the Samaritan man. Draw a heart between the two stick figures.

After Jesus told this parable, He asked the man, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" (Luke 10:36). Point to the three stick figures that represent the priest, Levite, and Samaritan. **Who do you think was the neighbor in this parable?** Encourage kids to answer. **Right. The Samaritan**

man. He was the one who showed the kind of love God shows. The man to whom Jesus was speaking also gave this same answer. He said the neighbor in this parable was “the one who had mercy” (v. 37). How did Jesus respond to this? Invite kids to read Jesus’ response in Luke 10:37b. Right, Jesus told the man to “go and do likewise”—or go and be like the Samaritan.

Why do you think Jesus told this parable? Interact with responses. In Jesus’ time the Jewish people and the Samaritans didn’t get along. They worshipped God and lived very differently from one another. Because of this, the Jewish and Samaritan people paid careful attention to stay as far away from one another as possible. But God is love! How do you think God felt about this? Invite answers. Jesus used this story to help the people understand that all people are our neighbors. No matter how different we are, God desires for us to show love to all people. He created us to love Him and to love others.

Sometimes it’s hard to love others, and we don’t do the best job at loving others the way God loves them. What makes it hard to love others sometimes? Interact with responses. The good news is that once we know God and have a relationship with Him, God’s Holy Spirit helps us to become more and more like Him in the way we treat others.

Jesus told this parable to show that we were each created to love everyone. God is love, and He created us to love Him and to love others. We can ask God to pour His love into our hearts so it overflows to others. Share a personal story of a time when God showed His love to you or when His love in you poured out to others.

Discussion Questions

- What is a parable?
- What do you think is the most interesting part of this parable?
- How do you think the man felt as he listened to Jesus tell this parable?
- Whom does God love? John 3:16
- As God’s children, whom does God want us to love? John 13:34–35

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.

Shapes of Prayer

Children will listen to Scripture passages about God’s love and then respond to God using clay.

SUPPLIES

- Modeling clay
- Toothpicks (1 per child)
- Optional: worship music

RELATE

Gather your kids in a circle on the floor. Jesus’ parable about the good Samaritan showed His listeners that God is love, and He desires for us to show His love to everyone. Throughout the Bible, God reminds all who trust and follow Jesus that we’ve been made to love all people. Let’s listen to some verses from God’s Word that talk about this. Read the verses below aloud as kids listen quietly. You might ask kids to close their eyes as they listen.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God ... 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 4:7a, 9)

The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Romans 13:9)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

We live in a broken world full of hurting people. This world desperately needs God’s love. How might God work through you to bring love to this world? Invite kids to ponder this question, and hand each child a lump of clay. Invite kids to form their lumps of clay into shapes of people or places that need God’s love. They can also write the names of hurting people or places onto their clay using toothpicks. After kids have had some time to respond, invite them to share what they molded with the group. As a group, pray over each of the children’s prayer creations—that God

would bring His love to those people or places.

(Optional) Ping-Pong Bounce

Invite your kids to play this silly relay race game as if they are of the same mindset of those hurrying along the path in the parable.

SUPPLIES

- Ping-pong balls (20–30)
- Empty tissue boxes (2, rectangular)
- Belts (2)
- Scissors

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut two slits (the width of the belt) just above the bottom edge of the tissue box (in the small end of the box). String the belt through the box. Repeat with the other box and belt.

SET UP

Fill the empty tissue boxes with ping-pong balls.

RELATE

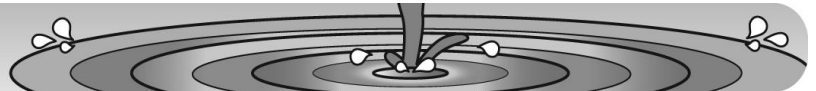
In the parable we heard today, all the men walked down a path. They probably wanted to get to their destination quickly by traveling this route—and they probably also wanted to avoid thieves.

Split kids into two teams. Have each team line up, one behind the other, against one wall. Explain that, on your signal, one member from each team will put on the “ping-pong belt.” They’ll “bounce” to the other side of the room and back—all the while trying to shake the ping-pong balls from the box. Each member of the team will have a chance to bounce from one side of the room to the other. Play until each member of the team has had a chance to bounce. As the team bounces, keep score (or designate one child from each team to keep score). Each ball that falls out of the box counts as one point for the team. See which team bounces out the most ping-pong balls.

Developmentally Speaking

Third and fourth graders love silly group games. Because kids at this age love to move their bodies and be with their friends, games such as Ping-Pong Bounce will feed their need for play and interaction with their peers. As kids play, make sure to create a goofy, fun atmosphere so they can really get into the fun.

BLESS//5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a 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
- Tape
- Markers
- Prayer requests and reminders (examples: news articles printed from the Internet, your church bulletin, pictures of people from your church, etc.)

SET UP

Collect the articles, pictures, church bulletins, or other items and tape them to the wall. Place a few markers near each item.

RELATE

Gather children and read the blessing from Colossians 3:12–13:

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

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.

Ask kids to look at the items taped to the walls. Explain that these items show or describe people around the world who could use their prayers. Invite kids to quietly walk around the room and pray for the people represented by each item. If they want, they can write a prayer of blessing on the item using the markers provided.

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