

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.

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 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.

The BIBLE Story

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 (bolded text can be read as a shorter version of the story)

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.”

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.