

Loving My Neighbor

Lesson Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Bible Truth: I will love my neighbor.

Bible Story: Luke 10:25-37

Bible Verse: “He answered: ‘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.’” (Luke 10:27, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Who Is my Neighbor?”

Preparation

Look for pictures of people in magazines and old newspapers: people of different ages, races, expressions, etc. Cut them out and paste them on a poster board. If you do not have access to magazines or newspapers, draw pictures of different people on a piece of paper or poster board.

Write the following rhyme on the poster board:

Helping others is the way
To show God’s love each day
Having Jesus in me helps me
To be good to all I see
Show love to others
Show love to others
Show love to others
No matter who they are.



Presentation

Say: **The Bible tells us to love our neighbors. Who is your neighbor?** After allowing each child to answer the question, show them the visual aid. By asking some questions, guide the children to understand that their neighbors are not only the people living next door. Since we love Jesus, we need to love and help everyone. Read the rhyme together several times. End with a prayer.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Luke 10:27

Preparation

Write Luke 10:27 on a poster board or the whiteboard. Next, divide the verse up into several short phrases and write each phrase of the verse on a separate card. Be sure to include the reference on a card as well. Hide the cards throughout the classroom.

Materials
poster board
markers
small cards

Explanation

Read Luke 10:27 to the children. Say: **In this Bible verse, Jesus gives us two commands. Can anyone tell me the first command?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, we are to love God with our whole selves. We learned about this in lesson one.** Ask a child to underline this command on the poster board.

Say: **In the next part of this verse, Jesus gives us a second command. Can anyone tell me the second command?** Allow children to answer. **Yes! Jesus wants us to love our neighbors. We will learn in our Bible story today that our neighbors aren't just the people who live near us. Jesus told us that our neighbors are anyone we meet.** Ask a child to underline the second command on the poster board.

Memorization Activity

After discussing the meaning of the verse, explain to the children that the words of Luke 10:27 are scattered throughout the classroom. After you give them a signal, they should start looking for the words. Once they've found the cards with the words, they should bring them to the front of the classroom and work together to place the cards in the correct order. Say: **Jesus wants us to love everyone just as much as we love ourselves.**

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Who Was this Man's Neighbor?" Luke 10:25-37

Preparation

Read and study Luke 10:25-37.

The week before presenting this lesson, choose four children or teens to dramatize the Bible story. Practice and provide them with costumes.

Materials
Bible
costumes for the characters in the skit:
priest (Jewish minister)
Levite (a man who assisted in the temple)
Samaritan
bandages

Presentation

Read the following Bible story while the children dramatize it.

Once upon a time, there was a man who knew a lot about the law of Moses and asked Jesus a question. He didn't really ask the question because he wanted to know more about God. Instead he asked the question because he wanted to trick Jesus into speaking foolishly.

"What does a man need to do to obtain eternal life?" asked the man.

Jesus replied with another question: "What does the law of Moses say about this?"

The man knew the law very well, so he immediately answered: "Moses' law says that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And that you should love your neighbor as yourself."

"Very good!" answered Jesus. "If you follow this commandment, you will live forever."

But the man had another question: "Jesus, who is my neighbor?"

Jesus went on to tell a story that would help this man understand who his neighbor was. Can you discover who your neighbor is as you hear this story?

"On a certain occasion, a Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho. While traveling he was attacked by some robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, took his money, and hit him. Then they left him on the side of the road.

A Jewish minister was also traveling to Jericho. As he approached the place where the man was lying down, he crossed the street and continued on his way. Then, another man passed by. He assisted in the temple. When he saw the man lying down on the road, he crossed over him, looked at him, and moved on.

Last, a man from Samaria walked by. Now, the people from Samaria and the Jews hated each other and wanted nothing to do with one other. But when this Samaritan saw the man, he felt very sad for him. He cleaned the man's wounds and put bandages on them. Then, he put the man on his donkey and walked with him to an inn. The Samaritan stayed with the man throughout the night and took care of him. The next day, the Samaritan gave money to the innkeeper to take care of the injured man.

After Jesus told the story, he asked the man, "Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?"

Quickly the man answered, "The one who took care of the man."

Jesus told him, "Go and be like the Samaritan."

End the story by asking:

In what ways can we say that the Samaritan behaved as a neighbor to the wounded man? He stopped to help; took the man to an inn; paid for his care; bandaged his wounds.

Why was it hard for a Samaritan to help a Jewish man? The Samaritan and Jewish people did not like each other because they were different from one another. Samaritans and Jews were often mean to each other.

Is it hard for you to help some people? Answers will vary. Discuss with children that it is sometimes easier to love our friends instead of those who are mean to us. However, Jesus says that we should show love to everyone.

Whom does Jesus want us to help? Anyone who needs it.

Who are some of the people you need to help? Family, friends, and even your enemies.

What can you do to help them? Be kind, pray for them, do chores for them, etc.

What will happen if we help those who need our help? We will be obeying Jesus' commands.

Does showing love to people demonstrate our love for God? Yes. When we obey Jesus' commands, we show that we love Him.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "Helping My Neighbor"

Preparation

If you are teaching younger children, write "Who is my neighbor?" at the top of each sheet of paper.

Presentation

Ask older children to title their paper "Who is my neighbor?" Then instruct the children to draw pictures of as many people as they can. On the back of the paper, ask them to draw a picture of themselves helping someone. When the children are finished, discuss their projects. Emphasize that anyone who needs help is our neighbor.

Materials
paper for each child
crayons, pencils, or
markers

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Cut out enough hearts for each child to have one. Write the following phrase on the heart, "I will show love to _____ by _____."

Materials
paper
scissors
crayons or pencils

Presentation

Give each child a heart. Ask them to fill in the first blank with the name of a person they can help this week. Then, in the second blank, ask them to list a specific way they can show love to that person. Encourage them to choose someone they might normally have trouble showing kindness toward. Pray together asking God to help the children show kindness to those people whose names are on the hearts. Encourage the children to display their hearts at home as a reminder of what God wants them to do.