Love Your Neighbor

Sunday School Lesson and Bible Activities for Kids from the Parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37

Who does God call us to love? What does it mean to be a “neighbor”? The parable of the Good Samaritan shows that we are to love and care for others. As a natural outpouring of our gratitude to Christ, we pass along His love to the people He created. It’s easy to be kind to those who are nice back to us, but “loving our neighbor” means all people, even those who are tougher to get along with!

Lesson focus: In this lesson, students will experience the Parable of the Good Samaritan and contemplate what it means to us. In the story, Jesus is the Samaritan, giving His life for us and caring for all of our needs. Out of gratitude for His sacrifice, we can care for one another. The “neighbor” God wants us to love is not just the person next door, but everyone who is made in the Lord’s image...that’s all people!

Scripture Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Target Students: Elementary School, adaptable for K-6th Grades

Teaching Materials Needed: Construction paper, decorative materials, paper bags, glue, band-aids, snacks, scissors, Bible (all optional, depending which activities you choose to use—except for the Bible, you need that for sure).

Additional Bible Teaching Activities on the Parable of the Good Samaritan

- Watch the video for this children’s sermon lesson, and Bible craft activities based on Luke 10:25-37
- Compare our Good Samaritan Sunday school Lesson with Love Your Neighbor Biblical Lesson for Children
- Our Children's Sermon On the Parable of the Good Samaritan
- All children's ministry activities are available on Luke 10:25-37
- More Bible Verses about the Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Check out the Mission Bible Class free teaching activities on The Good Samaritan
Game Activities to Introduce the Bible Lesson

**Lesson Opening:** This lesson features an element of caretaking and healing, as well as love and how to demonstrate it. Open with some components from the parable.

Here are some activities to get kids thinking...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Discuss what people around us need. For older students, look at articles or elements of poverty and need in the world. Are there ways that we can help people who don’t have enough?

- Care-taker relay: line students up in groups. Designate one child from each team to be the “hurt” person, and have other students run back and forth relay-style, taking turns to place band-aids on the “hurt” player. Race to see which team finishes first.

- “Heart repair”...draw a large heart on a white board or paper. Have students take turns running to the heart and writing ideas to help people. This could also turn into a relay race, if desired.

- Helper charades: have students come before the group and act out given items, demonstrating methods of helping people. Have other students guess the actions or jobs that are being mimed. This could also be done with illustrations, Pictionary style.

- What’s the message? Travel a phrase or word, playing the game of Telephone around the room to practice helpful communication.

Explain that today’s story is about loving people, and who God calls us to love. The most important thing we can do in life is love and serve the Lord and His people.

**Ask:** How do you show love for others? Who do you love most? Who is it harder to love and care for?
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Bible Lesson: As always, how you choose to experience the passages will vary according to the ages and abilities of your children (and how many are participating). This story is a fun one to act out, either with puppets or with students taking on roles. It can even be fun to enlist a teacher as a “donkey” to carry the hurt man!

Open up with the exposition of the parable. Someone came to Jesus to try tricking Him, asking what was required to go to Heaven. The answer Jesus gave surprised the people...

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 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.’”


This might sound simple, but it wasn’t enough for the questioners. The people had heard Jesus tell them before how important it was to love God and love others. But how far should that go, they wondered...

Explore: You can cross reference this with the “Great Commandment” in Matthew 22.

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “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. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. -Luke 10:29-32

In the opening to this parable, Jesus set up a story of a man traveling, who was beaten and left for dead. That ought to arouse the sympathy of anyone, but not the first two men in the story! The church workers (explain, if helpful, what a priest and a Levite were) should have been the most likely to help someone in need, but they didn’t even get close to the hurt man. They passed by on the other side of the road!

Ask: What do you do when you see someone who is asking for help or needs help? If you see a person begging on the street, how does it make you feel?

Continue the story...
But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 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. 35 The next day he took out two denarii 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.’ –Luke 10:33-35

Explain that a Samaritan would not have been well-liked by the Jews. Samaritans were seen as outsiders, not believing all the same things as the Jews, and in a sense heretics or cult-like. The Samaritan would have been the least likely to help. Instead, he stopped, bandaged the man, and took him to be taken care of. Jesus was actually our Samaritan. He was not liked by the church leaders, but He gave His life for us, sacrificing all of Himself so that we could live. He wants us to love and serve others, and used this parable to explain to people what it means to have mercy.

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”


This doesn’t leave much room for debate from the original question the people had asked. “Neighbor” doesn’t just apply to those close to us, but to all of God’s people. The least likely need love and attention. We demonstrate our love and gratitude to the Lord by caring for His people.

Ask: How can we show people we care about them? Why is this important to God?

Close with a prayer thanking God for loving and saving us. Ask for His help in demonstrating care and in being kind to others, even those who are harder to love. Ask for opportunities to serve and patience to genuinely love all people.
Sunday School Craft Activities

Crafts: Crafts accompanying the parable of the Good Samaritan can focus on ways that we love and serve others, and can also be small cards or gifts to be given. Consider one of these options:

- Make a series of puppet (popsicle stick puppets, paper bag or paper plate, etc.) to re-tell the story in an interactive way.

- Create a “goodie bag” of special items in a decorative bag, to be given to someone who might need encouragement or love.

- Make a decoration reminder of how to love and serve others, tracing a hand inside a heart and adorning with captions and notes of ways to love people.

The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us of the importance of loving ALL of God’s people, not just those close to us or the ones we get along with well. It isn’t always easy, but when we care for others, we demonstrate the love of Christ. The Good Samaritan also reminds us how much God loves us, even in our broken sinful state. These crafts recall the story and offer something for students to give to others. A “Heart-Healing Hand” reminds children of the importance of caring for others. A “Goodie Bag Samaritan” is a fun and decorative gift to provide for others.

Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider… (Luke 10:25-37)

He (Jesus) 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

You are LOVED…here are some treats to show that!

Love God…serve others!

Helping hand heal hearts!

How I can serve…
Craft one: “Heart-Healing Hand”

You will need:

- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Stickers, glitter, or other decorative items
- Band-aids

Procedure:

1. Cut a heart shape out of paper.
2. Trace a hand on the heart, or cut a hand out of another paper and glue to the heart.
3. Add captions to the heart and hand, addressing how we can love and serve God and others around us.
4. Add extra decorations such as stickers, band-aids, and glitter as desired.
5. If desired, add a hanger or magnet to hang somewhere.
Craft Two: “Goodie Bag Samaritan” Treat Bag

You will need:

- Construction Paper or cardstock
- Paper bags
- Band-aids
- Snacks or candies
- Rubber band, balloons, glow sticks, etc.
- Scissors
- Decorative elements as desired
- Markers or crayons

Procedure:
1. Decorate paper bag to use as a “goodie bag” delivery sack.
2. Decorate a note to go inside the bag, explaining the items within.
3. Select items to go inside the bag, showing care and love to encourage someone.
4. Add verses and captions as desired.
5. Deliver the goodie bag to someone who might need love and care, particularly someone who might not be as close or loved.
Love Your Neighbor…That Means Everyone!

**Lesson Objective:** The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that Christ wants us to love and care for others, not just those nearest to us, but all other people. In this message, remind students of the importance of caring about others. Use the example of a balanced diet to exemplify why we should be kind not just to people we like the most, but to all of God’s people.

**Law/Gospel Theme:** The Good Samaritan is not just about us being kind to others. It’s about God’s lavish kindness to us. Jesus, is the Good Samaritan, who gave His life for us. He loves us in our sin and brokenness, and does not treat us according to what we earn or deserve, but out of His lavish and extravagant love. In the same way, we demonstrate our appreciation for that deep love by passing it on to others.

**Optional Materials:** Various kinds of foods, some healthy (fruits, vegetables, etc.), and others junk food (candy, cookies, soda); lunch sack/paper bag.

**Bible Passage:** Luke 10:25-37

**More Bible Teaching Activities on the Parable of the Good Samaritan**

- Watch the [video of this children’s sermon lesson](#) and [Bible craft activities on Luke 10:25-37](#)  
- Compare our [Good Samaritan Sunday School Lesson](#) and [Love Your Neighbor Bible Lesson for Kids](#)  
- Compare our [Children’s Sermon on the Parable of the Good Samaritan](#)  
- See all the [children’s ministry activities on Luke 10:25-37](#)  
- Read more [Bible Verses on the Parable of the Good Samaritan](#)  
- Compare the free [Mission Bible Class teaching activities on the Good Samaritan](#)

**Message:** Note: As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. Use your judgment and ideas to best serve students.
The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
Children’s Sermon Message

Greet children and start with a discussion of food preferences...

Hello, children of God! So my mom asked me to pick out some things that I would want for lunch, and pack them up for a meal later. But she doesn’t seem to approve of what I put in my lunch bag here! (Pull items out of the bag to demonstrate as you describe.) I have some of my favorite things: cookies, Reese’s pieces, chips, soda, donut holes… I don’t know why she didn’t approve of them! It seems like a delicious lunch to me. These are all of the things that I like the best and want to have! But my mom does not agree. She seems to think that I need a more “balanced” and “healthful” meal, and wants me to put in things like carrots, cheese, fruit, and almonds. Those things are okay, I guess, but why do I need to have them in my lunch? Why can’t I just have the treats I want to enjoy?

It might sound strange to think of it this way, but sometimes this is our attitude when it comes to caring for other people. We tend to want to hang out with our best friends, with the people that we like the best. We might want to love and serve those who are close to us, like good friends and family. But we don’t always think about caring for those who we don’t know as well, or maybe even people who aren’t kind to us in return. Does God really want us to love them, too?

There’s a passage in the Bible where Jesus answers the question “Who is my Neighbor?” He provides a parable, a story to help people understand what He meant. In this parable, there was a man on the road, heading from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was beaten and robbed of all his money, and left on the side of the road for dead. Well, as he lay there, a priest, who worked for the church, happened to come along by. You would think someone who was a church worker would stop and give him a hand, but nope! That priest didn’t want to get himself dirty or waste time on this man, so he just rode right by like he didn’t even see the man. After that, a Levite came by. These were also special important people in the Temple, who followed the law and prided themselves on their righteousness. Do you think that Levite stopped to help the man? He didn’t stop, either! He rode right on by like the priest. Well, after this, another man came. This was a Samaritan. Samaritan people were not well-liked by the Jews of Jesus’s time. It’s hard to describe exactly why, but they disagreed on some things and were considered unclean outsiders. This Samaritan, however, didn’t waste a minute, stopping to help the poor beaten man. He got dirty, patched him up, put him on the Samaritan’s own donkey, and took him to the nearest inn (hotel) to get him taken care of.

What was the point of this story? Jesus wanted to reveal to the people that our neighbor is not just the person closest to you or the one who lives nearby. God wants us to love and care for everyone, because He loves and cares for everyone. The Good Samaritan in the story is not just a random person, but Christ Himself, who gave His life for all of us and was willing to love us in our messiness and sin. Jesus showed us His love and sacrificed for us. He wants us to love God and to
love others. Not only should we love our family and friends, but we should treat people with care, even if they aren’t the closest or nicest to us. It isn’t always easy. There might be people that make it difficult to love. Maybe there are people who aren’t always kind. We don’t have to purposely let people do mean and hurtful things to us, but it is important to pray for others and realize all are made in God’s image. We can demonstrate the love of Jesus when we are nice to those near to us, as well as those who might be harder to appreciate. We can say kind words, share what we have, and help those in need. We can ask God to help us show love to others, and ask for opportunities to do that as we love Him and express our appreciation for His love. Why don’t we say a prayer now to thank God for loving us?

**Children’s Prayer Moment**

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,
Thank you for caring for us
And loving us no matter what
Help us to share your love and grace
And to care for all of your people
Even those who are harder to love
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen!

**Bible Verses/story to Reference:**

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” 27 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.’” 28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 In reply Jesus said: “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. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 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. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[e] 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.’ 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”* -Luke 10:25-37
the good Samaritan

Luke 10

Mandy Grove '11

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3. A Levite offers no help.

4. A Samaritan shows loving kindness.
Sometimes, it’s hard for kids to get to know new people. We seem to stick with the people that we know and have something in common with. I know, as teachers, we try to make sure that our “new” kids get buddies and try to have our other children welcome them with open arms. This is sometimes difficult, depending on the children involved. I think this skit is a good eye-opener for the kids in your class to see that it’s the inside that counts.

This skit would be ideal for teaching about Luke 10:25-37 – the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Characters: Mom and son
Mom – (to son) Why don’t you go play with the new boy who just moved in across the street?
Son – Mom! He’s no fun.
Mom – How do you know that?
Son – Well, I saw some of the toys that he had when they were moving in to their house.
Mom – That’s not a good reason to not be friends with him.
Son – He’s not cool. The other kids at school make fun of him.
Mom – So what do you do?
Son – I don’t do anything. I don’t make fun of him.
Mom – But, you don’t stop it or help him, either. That’s just as bad. You need to think about if
you were him and what it feels like to be him.
Son – Fine. (rolls eyes and walks away)
(exit Mom and Son)
(son walks in with a sling on his arm followed by Mom)
Mom – I’m so sorry that you hurt your arm playing baseball, yesterday.
Son – Thanks, Mom. It really hurts and I don’t like that I can’t do anything.
Mom – Why don’t you ask one of your baseball friends to come over.
Son – I already tried. Since I can’t play baseball right now, they don’t want to.
Mom – Ok. What about your friends that you play video games with.
Son – Same thing. I can’t play video games. No one wants to hang out.
Mom – Really? They don’t seem like they’re very good friends, then.
Son – Seems like it. They don’t want to hang out if I can’t do what they like to do. It really stinks, you know.
(doorbell rings or a door knocks – Mom leaves to see who’s at the door and then comes back)
Mom – It’s the boy across the street and he wants to know if you can hang out.
Son – I can’t do anything since my arm got hurt. Did you tell him?
Mom – I told him that you hurt your arm. He already knew. He wants to hang out anyways. He said that he just got that new movie that you like and some popcorn to snack on.
Son – Wow. That was really nice of him.
Mom – Yes it was. That’s a true friend.
Son – I guess you’re right, Mom. Thanks.
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Don’t miss these other ideas from our website:

- Skit: Marty and Mabel (a modern-day Martha and Mary story)
- Bible Skit: The Samaritan Woman at the Well
- Jesus is King Coloring Book: Cover Page
- Bible Review Skit about Judas
- Teaching Skit: Rahab and the Spies Skit

New Sunday School Curriculum: Our Bible lessons are designed to keep the kids’ attention and show how God's Word makes a difference. Every series is flexible enough for a wide-age group and affordable enough for small churches. Download a free Bible lesson in pdf or view our latest Sunday School curriculum for kids.
The Good Samaritan
When Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” a man asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus told a story. In this parable a man who had a problem was helped by a Samaritan, a man he thought was his enemy.

Read each verse, and number the events of the story in the right order.

1 Luke 10:30  ____ A Samaritan was sorry for the man and stopped to help.
2 Luke 10:31  ____ A man was robbed, beaten up, and left by the side of the road.
3 Luke 10:32  ____ He bandaged the man and put him on his own donkey.
4 Luke 10:33  ____ A priest (temple leader) passed by the man and didn’t stop to help.
5 Luke 10:34  ____ He took the man to an inn (hotel) and left money to take care of him.
6 Luke 10:35  ____ A Levite (temple helper) stopped to look at the man but didn’t help him.

The Meaning of the Story

The Code:

Learn About the Bible Worksheets from Shirley McKinstry at ministry-to-children.com
Learn About Parables

Parables are stories told by Jesus. In these stories he used everyday objects to help us understand more about God.

**Everyday Things**
Unscramble the names of some things Jesus talked about in his parables.

- ________ P E S H E
- ________ E R T E
- ________ I C O N
- ________ D E S S E
- ________ D I F E L

Word List: COIN, FIELD, SEEDS, SHEEP, TREE

**Lost Things**
Luke 15 contains three stories about lost things. Read each verse, and find out what was lost and who was looking for it.


Lost Thing ___________________________  Person Looking ___________________________

**Luke 15:9** (for the whole story read Luke 15:8-10)

Lost Thing ___________________________  Person Looking ___________________________


Lost Thing ___________________________  Person Looking ___________________________

In each story the lost thing represents a person who doesn’t know God, and the person looking represents God. God wants to find every person who doesn’t know him and bring all of them to himself.

Word List: coin, father, man (or shepherd), sheep, son, woman

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