

LESSON AIM: If you truly love God, you will show His love to others.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-37

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”*)

- 1) What happened to the young man who asked for his inheritance?
- 2) What job was he doing when he finally came to his senses?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

When you hear the word “neighbor”, what do you think of? When the Bible tells us to love your neighbor as yourself, what do you think that means?

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. A lawyer trying to trick Jesus asked, "How can I inherit eternal life?" (v. 25).

[A "lawyer" in those times was an expert in explaining God's laws. This question may have been designed to trap Jesus or to lead Him to contradict some parts of the law. Perhaps the lawyer also wanted Jesus to reassure him that he was acceptable in God's eyes. It was believed that a person must obey the commandments, the written and oral law, "to inherit eternal life (be saved).]

Although the lawyer called Jesus "Teacher", he did not believe Jesus was really the Son of God. He thought he could earn eternal life by all his good works. But God's Word says that's impossible (**James 2:10**). You could never earn eternal life by doing enough good things to make up for the sin in your life. (Discuss good works children might think they could do to earn eternal life.) Because we are sinners, even the good things we do don't make us right in the sight of a holy God (**Isaiah 64:6**). Only Jesus, God's perfect Son, could pay for our sin. Jesus knows all about you and loves you. He knew the lawyer didn't believe on Him, but He loved him.

B. Jesus answered with a question, "What does the law say?" (v. 26).

C. Quoting from the law, the lawyer replied, "A person must love God with all his being and his neighbor as himself" (v. 27).

As the lawyer quoted God's words, he may have thought he was keeping God's commands or he may have felt uneasy, knowing that he didn't love God with all his being and his neighbor as himself. No one in his own strength could ever love God or his neighbor like that. But if you are part of God's family, Jesus lives in you, giving you power to love others with God's special love. God's Word says (**read 1 John 3:18**)... Godly love is not just a feeling. It's a decision to care about other people and put them before yourself, offering them help when they are in trouble—even when it's inconvenient.

[Optional: use a pre-planned role play to show negative responses to needs. Have one child portray someone in need—a child on crutches, struggling to carry his school books, or a child who looks lonely or sad. Have three others come up one at a time: one makes an excuse that he can't help, another ignores the child, and the third offers kind words but no action. Then discuss.]

Love is not a matter of words but of action. If you truly love God, you will show His love to others with your actions!

D. When Jesus told him his answer was right, the lawyer tried to get Jesus to make him feel better by defining the term "neighbor" (v. 29).

(Does it mean the person that lives next door to us? Does it mean just the people that we like? What do you think Jesus' answer was?)

E. Jesus begins to tell a story to show the lawyer what God's love is like and who is "neighbor" is (v. 30).

A man decides to go on a trip and sadly, he is robbed and beat up and left on the road to die. He is in a lot of pain and can't even get up off the ground, and suddenly somebody comes up to him. The poor man was probably very happy to think someone was going to help him!

F. A man comes along the road and happened to be a priest!

Surely a man serving God and learning worship services would stop and help his "neighbor" but he just looked at the poor injured man and kept on going, he probably didn't want to be late or get dirty (v. 31).

G. After a while, another man came up to the injured man (Again, surely the injured man was so happy that someone was finally going to help him!) This man was a Levi. Levites were men who assisted the priest's in God's work, and most certainly they knew what the word of God said, but yet he also saw the man but ignored him and kept walking!

H. Certainly after hours in the hot sun with no food and water, beat up and bleeding, the injured man must have been losing all hope. But just then another man came along.

This man was ethnically different, and most people didn't like him because he was a Samaritan (not a Jew). [Have you ever not liked someone because they looked different than you, or were from another country? Or maybe you have been the one that people didn't like because you were different... how did that feel?] The lawyer that Jesus was talking to definitely would NOT have considered this Samaritan his neighbor. But guess what? The Samaritan saw the man, bandaged him up, gave him some water and put him on his donkey to take him to a place that could help. When they got to the inn, the Samaritan even left money to help pay for food, a bed, medicine and anything else he may need! (v. 33-35).

I. Jesus led the lawyer to a painful admission—the Samaritan was obeying God's law by being a neighbor, while religious Jews were not (v. 36-37).

It was hard for the lawyer to admit that the Samaritan was the hero in Jesus' story. Yet the Samaritan was a wonderful example of what it means to be a true neighbor. He showed kindness to a man who probably hated him. The Bible says we should "love our enemies" (Matthew 5:44). Sometimes it's hard to show love to our friends, or even our families, but it takes God's love to reach out to our enemies.

How can you show love this week? (Referring to the previous role play, discuss practical ways the students could show love to someone in need.) Showing love may require some sacrifice--your money, your time, sharing, giving, and so on. Who is YOUR neighbor? Anyone you can help is your neighbor--be it a friend or an enemy. Showing love and kindness is evidence that you truly love God. God loves every person in the world, no matter his race or nationality, and He wants his children to do the same. The lawyer, who thought he was perfectly keeping God's law, realized that he actually wasn't keeping God's law.

Challenge

What about you? As a part of God's family, if you truly love God, will you show His love to others? Ask God to help you notice people around you who are in need. Regardless of who they are, God will give you the power to love them. Look for practical ways to be of help each day (1 John 3:18). Next week let's share the ways we were able to show His love others.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18