

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 12: The Good Samaritan (from Luke 10:25-37)

To the Teacher:

This is likely a story you are very familiar with. The kids you teach may or may not be, as well. As you prepare this week, pray for the Spirit to open your eyes and heart afresh to this story. Pray the Spirit will convict you in areas you do not live this out, while reminding you of God's grace, forgiveness, and power to walk in this way of love. Pray for the kids to truly grasp the magnitude of love Jesus calls us to walk in, and our need for his Spirit to do so.

- **Big Idea:** Love God and love people. All people.
- **Question:** Who is your neighbor? Do you ever play or eat with any of your neighbors?
- **Starter:** 'Won't You Be My Neighbor?'
For fun, you may choose to play the theme song to Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. You can search it by name on YouTube.
OR...
You may choose to act out the story for today. Assign one child as the hurt man, one as the priest, one as the temple worker, and one as the Samaritan. If you have enough kids and want to act out the entire story, there is also the innkeeper and the robbers.
- **Story:** from Luke 10:25-37
[READ]
One day a teacher of God's Law wanted to test Jesus, so he asked what he needed to do to live forever. Jesus answered, "You teach God's Law, so you know. What does it say?" The man replied, "We are to love our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, and all our mind. And also love our neighbor as our own self." Jesus said, "You're right. If you do that you will live." But the man wanted to justify how he treated people so he asked, "Who is my neighbor that I should love?"

Jesus answered by telling a story. "A man was traveling when robbers stole everything from him and beat him so bad he couldn't walk. Later, a priest walked by him on the road and when he saw the hurt man, he walked to the other side of the road to stay away from him. Then, a man who served in the temple passed the same way; he stayed as far away from the hurt man as possible. Finally, a Samaritan man came by."

The teacher of the Law Jesus was speaking to, and every other Jewish person, did not like Samaritans very much. They thought Samaritans were not very good and God didn't love them as much as He loved the Jews. If the good religious people didn't help the hurt man, what would the Samaritan do?

Jesus continued, "The Samaritan had compassion on the hurt man. He cleaned him up, bandaged his wounds, and placed him on his horse. He brought him to an inn (which was like a hotel) and took care of him. When he had to leave, he gave the innkeeper money and asked him to care for the man. 'If it costs you more money to help him, I'll pay you back!' he told the innkeeper."

"Now," Jesus asked, "which of these three was a better neighbor to the hurt man? The priest, the temple worker, or the Samaritan?" The man answered, "The one who showed love and mercy." Then Jesus told him, "I want you to be like that man."

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: According to Jesus, who is your neighbor? (*point them to this: anyone God brings us across who needs His love*)
- Ask: The man who taught God's Law knew the right answer, but struggled to live that way. Why is it difficult sometimes to love other people?
- Jewish people saw Samaritans as not good and not clean. They were considered to not be God's people. Jesus' story shows that he loves all people and wants us to love all people... even those different from us.
- Ask: Who are the people that are different from you? What are ways you can show love for them as your neighbor?
- Ask: How does loving your neighbor show people what God is like?

• **Prayer:**

Father, sometimes we treat other people badly, especially if they are different or we decide we don't like them. Forgive us. We know You sent Jesus to come and live on earth as our neighbor, going out of his way to love us, care for us, and heal us. We need Your Spirit to help us to do the same for other people, so they will know Your love. Amen.

- **Craft:** Write the command to love your neighbor from Luke 10:27 on a rectangle sheet of paper. Draw a heart or bandage on a second sheet the same size and cut it in half. Attach each side to the first sheet so that it will pop open to reveal the scripture. You can view this larger at: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/9b/53/f2/9b53f2c41f9fab7cf5ef499741578aa.jpg>



- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
Bless one of your neighbors on your street this week by helping with their yard, bringing them their mail, or inviting them over for dinner. Ask your parents how to do this with their help.