

The Good Samaritan

(Luke 10:25-37; Luke 6:27-36; and Matthew 5:43-44)

Introduction

Ask: Have you ever **not** wanted to do what you knew was the right thing to do?

Maybe you knew that the Holy Spirit was prompting you to be a friend to someone that everyone at school thinks is just a dope. The Spirit is telling you it is the right thing to do, but you think, *“What will everyone think of me if I make friends with someone no one likes?”*

Or maybe your mom asks you to go down the street to visit this sick old lady and read the Bible to her. In your heart of hearts, you know it would be the kind thing to do, but you think, *“I don’t want to spend my Saturday with a sick old lady! I want to be out playing baseball with my friends.”*

Sometimes it’s hard to do what’s right.

Today we are going to learn the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*.

Ask: How many of you already know this story?

I want to challenge you to pay close attention to this lesson. See if God has something He wants to teach you.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to be the kind of people You want us to be. We pray this morning that You will give us the power of the Holy Spirit to understand the lesson You have for us today. Then help us to apply the lesson to our lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Memory Verse

Love knows no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. (Romans 13:10)

And/or

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Highest. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. (Luke 6:35)

And/or

Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (James 4:17)

Lesson

One day a lawyer came and asked Jesus a tricky question.

Luke 10:25

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Ask: How would you answer that question?

The Jews in Jesus’ day believed that a person must obey the *Ten Commandments* perfectly in order to go to Heaven after they die. They thought that they could earn eternal life by doing good works.

Jesus came to earth to tell people that it is impossible to earn eternal life. The good things we do don’t make us right in the sight of a holy God. You can’t do enough good things to make up for the sin in your life. Jesus wanted people to understand that they needed a Savior and that He came to be our Savior.

When the scribes and Pharisees heard Jesus teach about God’s kingdom, His teachings were so radically different than anything they’d ever heard before, they thought He was being wicked.

Because the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus’ popularity with the people, they would try to trick Jesus into saying something contrary to the Word of God. Their hope was to bring Him before the high priest and have Him punished.

This lawyer in our story this morning was an expert in explaining God’s laws. He, of all people, knew God’s laws very well. So, when he

asked Jesus, “*What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” he was just testing Jesus to see what He would say.

Luke 10:26

Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

Jesus answered the lawyer by asking him another question.

Luke 10:27

The man answered, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The lawyer answered Jesus’ question by summing up the *Ten Commandments*. The first four commandments tell us to love God. (Don’t have any other gods, don’t have any idols, don’t take God’s name in vain, and keep the Sabbath holy.) The last six commandments tell us to love others. (Honor your parents, don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, and don’t covet.)

The whole law is summed up with, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself.*”

Ask: When it says to *love your neighbor as yourself*, what does it mean?

Just as you love and care for your own needs, you are to love others. When you’re hungry, you get yourself something to eat. If a friend of yours came over you wouldn’t get yourself something to eat and not give anything to your friend, would you? You wouldn’t make a houseguest go sleep out in the back yard while you went and slept in a nice warm comfortable cozy place. In the same way you take care of yourself, so you are to treat your neighbors; the Golden Rule.

Luke 10:28

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

Jesus knew that it is impossible to do this. No one in his own strength could ever love God or his neighbor with all of his heart, soul, strength and mind. And, the lawyer was probably feeling very uneasy at this point, knowing that he didn’t love God with all his being or his neighbor as himself. So, he asks Jesus to define the term “*neighbor*.”

Luke 10:29

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

As a Jew, the lawyer probably believed that his neighbor was only his fellow Jew. So, Jesus used a parable to show the lawyer what God’s love is like.

Luke 10:30-31

*Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. (31) “By chance a **priest** came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.*

A priest is like a pastor. They spent their lives teaching people about God’s law.

Surely a priest, who served God and led others in the worship of God would care about this wounded man. But he didn’t. He glanced at the injured man, saw that he was a bloody mess, went to the other side of the road and walked on by, choosing not to dirty himself. He didn’t want to become unclean.

Luke 10:32

*A **Temple assistant** walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side*

The Levites were like deacons. They did work around the temple. Surely this guy would stop to help this poor man. But he, too, refused to help. He stopped and looked at the victim lying there, but he also went to the other side of the road and just passed him by.

Luke 10:33

*“Then a despised **Samaritan** came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.*

This is very interesting. The Jews and the Samaritans had been bitter enemies for years. The Jews despised Samaritans and the Samaritans despised the Jews. Jews would never dream of helping a Samaritan and the Samaritans would never think of helping a Jew.

Yet it was a Samaritan who showed compassion to the wounded Jew! This must have stunned this lawyer who was listening to this story.

Luke 10:34-35

Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. (35) The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

The Samaritan paid all costs, left money, and promised more!

Now Jesus asks the lawyer a question.

Luke 10:36-37

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. (37) The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

It was probably 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.

Jesus told His followers, “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid.” (Luke 6:35 NLT)

Sometimes it’s even hard to show love to our friends. It may require sharing, giving in to their way, or letting them be first. It’s even harder to reach out and love our enemies. It takes God’s love to be kind to someone who has been mean to us. You can’t do it in your own strength, you must ask Jesus into your heart and then you can call upon the Holy Spirit to give you the power you need.

We need to ask God to help us notice people who are in need. Look for practical ways to be of help each day. [Teacher, lead the children in a discussion using the following questions.]

- How can we help the **sick**, or the **old**, or the **poor**? (Visit the sick, send cards, be a friend, say a kind word, or invite them to church.)
- How can we be good neighbors to people who live on the other side of the world? (Support mission work, write letters, and pray)

Regardless of who they are, God will give you the power to love them.

Ask: So, who is your neighbor?

Anyone you can help is your neighbor — any friend or enemy in trouble. **Showing love and kindness shows that you truly love God.** God loves every person, no matter what church he goes to, or if he’s been mean to you, or if his skin is a different color. God wants us to do good to all. To Jesus, everyone was worth dying for.

Closing Prayer

Father, we usually know what is right. We pray that you will empower us to do what we know we should do. Help us to always be loving and kind to everyone, no matter which church they go to or what color their skin is. We want to be Good Samaritans, helping people in need, no matter what the cost is to us personally. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Use the “Good Samaritan” booklet pattern found on my website (at https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/KidsWorld/TopicalTeachings/Parables/05bParables_Samaritan_worksheet1.pdf), to make a little booklet about this lesson.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. How did the Jews in Jesus’ day believe that a person got eternal life? (By obeying the *Ten Commandments* perfectly and doing good works.)
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees think that Jesus was wicked? (He was teaching that you don’t get to heaven by keeping the 10 Commandments. His teachings were so radically different than anything they’d ever heard before.)
3. What did Jesus teach the people that made the scribes and Pharisees so angry? (That you couldn’t keep the *Ten Commandments* perfectly; that’s why you need a Savior.)
4. If a lawyer is an expert in explaining God’s laws, why did he ask Jesus what to do to inherit eternal life? (He was trying to trick Jesus into saying something contrary to the Word of God.)
5. Why did the religious leaders of Jesus day try to trick Him into saying something contrary to the Word of God? (They wanted to bring Him before the high priest and have Him punished.)
6. Tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in your own words.
7. Which of the three was the “*neighbor*” to the guy who fell among the thieves? (The Samaritan)
8. When Jesus said to *love your neighbor as yourself*, what was he saying? (Just as you love and care for your own needs, you are to love others.)
9. How can we help the **sick** or the **old** or the **poor**? (Visit the sick, send cards, be a friend, say a kind word, or invite them to church.)
10. How can we be good neighbors to people who live on the other side of the world? (Support mission work, write letters, and pray.)
11. It’s impossible to love God with your whole being and your neighbor as yourself. So, what must you do? (Ask Jesus into your heart and call upon the Holy Spirit to give you the power you need to be loving.)
12. What is one thing God showed you in this lesson today?

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