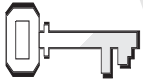


Who Is My Neighbor?



References

Luke 10:25-37;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 497-505



Memory Verse

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart’ . . . and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ ” (Luke 10:27, NIV).



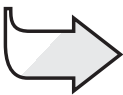
Objectives

The children will:

Know that God’s love has no boundaries.

Feel that in God’s sight all are equals.

Respond by accepting and helping others as God’s children regardless of their background.



The Message

Everyone is included in God’s love.

Monthly Theme

We are members of God’s family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A lawyer asks Jesus, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replies, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Then Jesus tells the story about a man who is robbed on the highway and left to die. A priest and a Levite pass him by and do not help. Then a Samaritan stops and takes care of him, saving his life.

This is a lesson about community.

People in a community of faith are brothers and sisters in Christ. They care about one another, regardless of who they are or where they have come from. All people are God’s children. All are included in His love.

Teacher Enrichment

Samaritans—“The religion of the Samaritans did not differ much from that of the Jews in the time of Christ, for with them they accepted the Pentateuch. They also expected a Messiah to come (John 4:25). However, their religious beliefs were more liberal than those of the orthodox Jews, especially than those of the Pharisees, and may have been somewhat similar to those of the Sadducees” (*The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 973).

The origin of the Samaritans is described in 2 Kings 17:24-34.

Christ “showed that our neighbor does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbor is every person who needs our help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is every one who is the property of God” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 376).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Love-Your-Neighbor Hearts</i> B. <i>God Loves Everyone</i> C. <i>Exclusion Exercise</i> D. <i>Who's My Neighbor?</i>	paper hearts (see page 148), pencils or markers, scissors heart or Jesus stickers; pictures: criminal, pastor, teacher, boy, people of other lands and races, people worshipping idols, etc. none none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> decorated shoe box from last week none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	long strip of paper; large blanket; sticky bandage strips; ace bandages, gauze, first-aid kit, etc.; three copies of the script; tape long strip of paper with memory verse written on it, large blanket Bibles, ten clean socks
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Hurting Hearts</i>	paper hearts (see page 148), adhesive bandage for each child, pens or markers, scissors
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Tell Them!</i>	paper, pencils, markers, crayons

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Prepare in advance. Have someone lying moaning on a cot near the entrance. Welcome students at the door. Invite them into the room. Look at the reactions as they pass the moaning person. When everyone is seated, ask: **Did you see the person moaning on the cot? Did you stop? Why? Why not? What do you think is the matter with him (or her)?**



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- paper hearts (see page 148)
- pencils or markers
- scissors

A. Love-Your-Neighbor Hearts

Give a paper heart (see page 148) to everyone. Ask the children to cut it out and write the name of someone that they do not like, or who is different, or who is not their friend. Have the children keep what they wrote to themselves. Suggest that they tape their hearts somewhere in their bedroom and pray about that person in the coming week.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think Jesus loves the people whose names you wrote on your paper hearts? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves them just as He loves you? Do you find it hard to love them? What can you do to learn to love them? Jesus can help us to love one another. When you pray, ask Jesus to help you love this person. Jesus can love them through you. Today's message tells us:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Say that with me.

B. God Loves Everyone

Lay the pictures on a table. Ask the children to put a sticker on the pictures of the people whom Jesus loves.

Debriefing

Ask: **Whom does God love?** (everyone, everywhere) **How do you know? Did you put a sticker on all of the pictures?** (yes, no) **Why?** (Accept answers.) Say: **God loves EVERYONE. Everyone is valuable to Him. Today's message tells us:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Say that with me.

C. Exclusion Exercise

Form groups of six. Five children huddle together and refuse to let the sixth child in. Allow 15 seconds; then change. Give everyone a turn on the outside.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you feel about being kept on the outside? On the inside? Do we sometimes keep others out? What can we do if we see someone being excluded? God wants us to love those around us, because:**

You Need:

- pictures: criminal, pastor, teacher, boy, people of other lands and races, people worshipping idols, etc.
- heart or Jesus stickers



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Say that with me.

D. Who's My Neighbor?

Have the children stand or sit in a circle, with one child in the middle. The group chants: "Jeremy, Jeremy, who is your neighbor? Tell us, tell us now!" Jeremy responds: "Sally, Sally is my neighbor." Rule: A person can be named only once. Sally joins Jeremy in the center of the circle. Group chants again for Sally, etc. Keep it fast paced and end the game in three minutes.

Debriefing

Ask: **Whom did you choose as a neighbor? One of your friends? Someone you like? Whom do you think your neighbor is? Today's message tells us:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Since this month's lessons are on community, promote this concept each week by choosing two children as welcome buddies to greet any visitors. Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements.



Suggested Songs

- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139)
- "God Calls Us" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 130)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 133)
- "Cross Over the Road" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 131)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize that everyone is welcome in God's family.



Offering

Say: **Our offering today will be used to let others know that everyone is included in God's love.**

You Need:

- decorated shoe box used last week



Prayer

Make a prayer circle, holding hands, to show that everyone is included in God's love. Ask for requests. Pray sentence prayers. Thank God that everyone is included in His love.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- long strip of paper
- large blanket
- adhesive bandage strips
- ace bandages
- gauze
- first-aid kit, etc.
- three copies of the script
- tape

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Lawyer (adult male), Jesus (adult male who will tell the story), narrator (adult), injured man, priest, Levite, good Samaritan. Provide copies of the script to the lawyer, Jesus, and the narrator.

Props: blanket, first-aid supplies

Setting the Scene

Prepare in advance a long strip of paper with the words of the memory verse printed on it. (You will use this later, during the memory verse activity.) Tape the strip of paper to the floor underneath a large blanket at the front of the room. Have available adhesive bandage strips, ace bandages, gauze, first-aid kit, etc.

Dress the characters in Bible-times costumes. Choose one of the children to lie on the blanket, pretending to be the injured man.

Refer to the welcome activity. Ask: **Did you wonder about the “sick” person in the bed (or corner)?** (yes) **What did you think when you saw the person?** (This is strange. What is he or she doing in our classroom? etc.) **Did you go over to the person and ask about how he or she was feeling?** (yes, no) **Our story today is about a sick man.**

Have the “lawyer,” “Jesus,” and narrator tell the story.

Opening Scene: *The lawyer and Jesus in conversation.*

Narrator: The young lawyer stood up and cleared his throat.

Lawyer: Teacher, what shall I do to have eternal life?

Jesus: What do the scriptures say?

Lawyer: I should love God with all of my heart, soul, strength, and mind, and

love my neighbor as I love myself.

Jesus: You’re right. Keep doing these things and eternal life is yours.

Lawyer: But who is my neighbor?

Jesus: Let me tell you a story.

Middle Scene: *Jesus tells a story.*

Jesus: Once there was a man who left Jerusalem to travel to Jericho. Along the way, robbers attacked him. They beat him, took his money and clothes, and left him lying there in the hot sun, almost dead. [*Child representing the injured man lies on the blanket on the floor.*]

A Jewish priest was traveling the same way. When he saw the injured man, he thought, *Oh no! That man’s in bad shape! I can’t tell if he’s a Jew or not—I’d better not help him.* And the priest walked over to the other side of the road. [*“Priest” looks at injured man, quickly turns away, walks to other side of the room.*]

Soon a Levite who worked in the temple came by. *Poor man,* he thought, *I really ought to help him. I wish I hadn’t come this way. Surely someone else will help him.* And the Levite hurried on down the road. [*Levite looks quickly at the injured man. Hurries away.*]

Then a Samaritan came by.

Narrator: Jesus looked around. He knew that the Jewish people hated the people of Samaria. He knew the priest and Levite of His story were in the crowd. They heard every word.*

Jesus: The Samaritan felt sorry for the poor man and stopped right away to help him. He put medicine on the man’s wounds. [*Good Samaritan puts bandages on the man’s “wounds.”*] He gently helped him up on his own donkey. [*Good Samaritan helps the injured man get up. Walks with him to another part of the room.*] Carefully he took the injured man to the nearest inn, stayed with him

through the night, and gave the innkeeper extra money in the morning to take care of the injured man. "Let me know if that isn't enough," said the Samaritan, "and I'll be glad to pay you more when I come back this way."

Closing Scene: *The lawyer and Jesus talk again.*

Narrator: Jesus looked into the young lawyer's eyes and asked:

Jesus: Now, my friend, which of the three was a neighbor to the wounded man?

Lawyer: The one who helped him.

Jesus: Go now, and be that kind of neighbor! [*Lawyer walks away.*]

Narrator: Today, Jesus asks us to be good neighbors. In God's eyes, every person is equal. Every person is someone to love and accept. Ask Jesus to make your heart like His, so you can show His love to your neighbor.

NOTE: LEAVE THE BLANKET ON THE FLOOR FOR USE DURING THE NEXT ACTIVITY.

*See *The Desire of Ages*, page 499.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you like about the good Samaritan?** (He was willing to show love and caring to everyone, even people who didn't like him.) **If you see someone in trouble and you are able to help, what should you do?** (Help that person the best I can.) **Why? Because:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Memory Verse

Pick up the blanket revealing the memory verse taped to the floor underneath. Invite a child to read (or lis-

You Need:

- long strip of paper with memory verse prepared earlier
- large blanket used earlier

ten as you read) the verse, then go back to the group and invite another child to go with him/her to read and say the verse. Repeat until all have had a turn, then say the verse together.

Bible Study

Assign characters to be represented by simple sock puppets:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (1) expert in the law | (2) Jesus |
| (3) injured man | (4 & 5) two robbers |
| (6) priest | (7) Levite |
| (8) Samaritan | (9) donkey |
| (10) innkeeper | |

Have the children open their Bibles to Luke 10:25-37. Give ten children each a clean sock to put over one hand. The sock puppets will act out the ten characters in the biblical narrative. (If you don't have ten children, have some children represent more than one character.) Assign the character(s). Appoint children to read aloud the story from Luke 10:25-37. Have the others follow along in their Bibles. Each puppet is to act out their character as their verse is being read.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about the good Samaritan?** (I am glad that he helped. I admire him, etc.) **How do you feel about the priest and Levite?** (I am disappointed. I am unhappy with them, etc.) **How do you feel about the injured man?** (I wish that I could help.) **How are we sometimes like the priest or Levite?** (We make excuses; don't try to help, etc.) **How can we be good Samaritans?** (Help anyone I can, even if they are not my friend.) **Always remember:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

You Need:

- Bibles
- ten clean socks

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper heart for each child (see page 148)
- adhesive bandage for each child
- pens or markers
- scissors

Hurting Hearts

Say: **You probably have never found an injured person on the side of the road. That doesn't happen very often. But there are many other kinds of hurts. What other kinds of hurts are there?** (lonely, sad, crying, being left out of a game, shut-in, unkind words, homeless, hungry, poverty, disease, etc.)

Give the children a paper heart (see page 148) to cut out and an adhesive bandage; have them write a "hurt" on the heart and then cover it with the bandage. Write the word "Jesus" on the bandage.

Debriefing

Say: **We don't always see that another person around us is hurting unless we look. Do you know any hurting people? Maybe someone in your neighborhood, in school, a relative, or friend?** (Let them think and respond.) **What can you do to show God's love to them, and help heal their hurt?** (Take responses.) **How do you feel when you help someone to learn about God's love and healing?** (happy) **Does it matter whom you help? No! Because . . .**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Tell Them!

Say: **Make a card for a child who is not in Sabbath School today, a friend who you wish were in Sabbath School with you, or someone who often gets left out; someone who is hurting for another reason. Write "You are included in God's love" on your card and then decorate it. To whom will you give your card?**

Debriefing

Ask: **Who is your neighbor?** (Anyone who needs our help.) **How can you include the person to whom you are giving your card and help them to**

feel God's love through you? (Share ideas.) **How would you feel if you were that person and received a card?** (loved, accepted, encouraged) **Make an effort to invite that person to your home or include them in an activity this week. Let's say our message again:**



EVERYONE IS INCLUDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

Closing

Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129). Pray that each child will make an effort this week, and every day thereafter, to share God's love with someone who is hurting or left out.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils, markers, crayons

Who Is My Neighbor?

References

Luke 10:25-37;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 497-505

Memory Verse

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart’ . . . and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ ”
(Luke 10:27, NIV).

The Message

Everyone is included in God’s love.

Pierre sat down in an empty chair in the Sabbath School room. The other children were talking together, but Pierre sat alone. He didn’t know anyone. He felt out of place. No one spoke to him. His family had just arrived from a faraway country. He spoke with an accent. It hurt to be lonely. Why wouldn’t anyone speak to him?

In today’s Bible lesson, Jesus told a story about a man who was hurting and needed help. Who would pay attention to him?

The young lawyer stood up. He straightened his belt and cleared his throat. “Teacher, what shall I do to have eternal life?”

“What do the scriptures say?” asked Jesus.

“That I should love God with all of my heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love my neighbor as much as I love myself,” the lawyer replied.

“You’re right,” Jesus said. “Keep doing these things and eternal life is yours.”

“But just who is my neighbor?” questioned the young man.

“Let me tell you a story,” said Jesus, smiling.

“Once there was a man who left Jerusalem to travel to Jericho. Along the way, robbers attacked him. They beat him. They took his money and clothes, and left him lying in the hot sun, half dead.

“It just so happened that a Jewish priest was traveling the same way. A little later, he came to the place where the injured man was lying. Quickly he looked away. He thought, *Oh, no! That man’s in great pain! I can’t tell if he’s a Jew or not—I’d better hurry on.* And the priest crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way.

“Soon a Levite who worked in the temple came by. Curious, he stopped to look at the wounded man. *Poor man, he thought, he looks terrible. I really ought to help him. But I don’t want to get involved. I wish I hadn’t come this way. Surely someone else will help him.* And the Levite hurried on down the road.

“It wasn’t long until a Samaritan came by.” Jesus looked around. He knew that the

Jewish people hated the people of Samaria. He knew the priest and Levite of the story

were in the crowd. They heard His every word.*

But he continued. “The Samaritan felt sorry for the poor man and stopped right away to help him. He gave him water. He put medicine on the man’s wounds. He gently helped him up on his own donkey.

“Carefully he took the injured man to the nearest inn, where he stayed with him through the night. In the morning he gave the innkeeper money to take care of the hurt man. ‘Let me know if that isn’t enough,’ said the Samaritan. ‘I’ll gladly pay you more when I come this way again.’ ”

Jesus looked into the young lawyer’s eyes. “Now, my friend,” He quietly asked,



* See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 499.

“which of the three was a neighbor to the wounded man?”

“The one who helped him,” the young man answered quietly.

Jesus spoke kindly, “Go now, and be that kind of neighbor!”

Today, Jesus asks us to be good neighbors, too. In God’s eyes, every person is equal. Every person is someone to be loved and accepted—no matter where they come from, or if they speak with an accent. This week, ask Jesus to make your heart like His. Ask Him to help you show His love to your neighbor.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go with your family and follow a path or narrow road for a while. Sit in a quiet spot and read your Bible story. Imagine that you are the man who was traveling to Jericho. How do you feel about “Samaritans”—people who are different from you? Ask God to help you be a friend to all people.
- Read Luke 10:27 together before you pray.
- Sing “Cross Over the Road” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 131).

Sunday

- For family worship, read and discuss Luke 10:25-29 together. Teach your memory verse to your family.
- Read Song of Solomon 2:4b. Make a “Banner of Love.” (See directions on page 22 of the Bible Study Guide.)
- Sing “His Banner Over Me Is Love” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 25). Thank God for people who care about you. Ask Him to make you a caring person.

Monday

- At family worship, read and discuss Luke 10:30-37 together. Then tell the story in your own words. Ask Jesus to help you become a good Samaritan.
- Use the code to unscramble the memory verse.
Z = L O = M X = A
Zmve the zmrđ ymur Gmd with xzz ymur hexrt.
Zmve ymur neighbmur xs ymursezf. Zuke 10:27.
- Sing “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 132).

Tuesday

- During family worship today, read and discuss John 13:34, 35. Say your memory verse together. The Samaritan helped someone who was not his friend. Think of someone you know who is

not a special friend. Invite them to do something special with you. (Ask your parents first.) Say a special prayer for them. Have you given away the “You are included in God’s love” card you made in Sabbath School?

Wednesday

- In the Bible we read about people who became really good friends, even though they were not alike. During worship read the texts, then unscramble their names.
Ruth 1:15, 16 turh and aimno
1 Samuel 19:1, 3 vidad and thananoj
2 Timothy 4:11 luap and kmar
- Say your memory verse to an adult. Pray for someone who is different from you in some way.

Thursday

- During family worship, role play a situation in which a new child comes to your Sabbath School. They are not dressed up, and their clothes are dirty. You are the greeter. What will you say?
- Read and discuss Romans 14:13. Sing “The Family of God” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139).
- Say your memory verse before prayer. Ask God to help you accept all people, even though they may not accept you.

Friday

- For worship today, act out your lesson story with your whole family. What have you learned from this lesson?
- Give the people in your family a hug. Tell them how much you love them. Sing “Love at Home” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137). Read Galatians 6:10 together before prayer.
- Draw something to illustrate the memory verse and explain it to your family. Then say the verse together.