

Lesson 8

Love Your Neighbor

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 10:25-32

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 19:19b

CATECHISM: The Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand that our neighbor is anyone we meet.
- recognize we do not always love God or our neighbors
- learn to ask God to help us love others

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: A lawyer came to Jesus asking about what he needed to do to get to heaven. Jesus asked him what law said. The lawyer responds by citing Old Testament scripture (Dt. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18) Jesus next question was Who is your neighbor? Jesus then tells the first part of the story of the Good Samaritan. Remember the concept of sins of omission (what we don't do) and commission (what we do) This lesson focuses on the bad examples of the temple worker and the Levite and next week's lesson completes the story with the Good Samaritan.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What question did the lawyer ask Jesus? What question did Jesus ask the lawyer? How are we to love God? Are we able to do this? The lawyer did not want to admit that he could not do this so he asks another question, who is my neighbor? Who were the first 2 men to see the injured man? How did they respond to the injured man? What can we do to help us be a good neighbor?

ACTIVITY 1: What Happened?: 1. A man... 2. Some Thieves... 3. Robbers left... 4. A priest saw... 5. A Levite saw... 6. The Priest and the Levite...; No, No. Fill in the missing letters: Love Your Neighbor

ACTIVITY 2: Draw ways to help/love your neighbor.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will prepare your heart to teach this lesson well.
Ask God for insight to apply the lesson to your own life first.
Pray for the needs of each child.

Prayer Preparation

- Ask God to remind you of a personal example to keep in mind (or maybe share) of when you learned something about loving your neighbors.
- Spend time in prayer with the Lord.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets and lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Luke 10:25-32

Not everyone understood the parables of Jesus, and in some cases, he had to explain them, even to his disciples. When they asked Jesus what the parable of the sower meant, he said: “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *they are told* in parables, so that while seeing they may not see, and while hearing they may not understand. (Lk 8:9-10). So, we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth.

This week we will look the actions of the thieves, the priest, and the Levite. Next week we will see love in action as the Samaritan demonstrates our responsibility to help and befriend our neighbor in every time of need.

This lawyer was not a civil or criminal lawyer, but an expert in the Old Testament law. The lawyer stood up and put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (10:25). “To the test” tells us his motive was not to seek the truth. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees and scribes, he was trying to trap Jesus so they could condemn Him and find reason to have Him executed. This lawyer was part of the religious establishment that was always harassing Jesus.

Knowing the man was an expert in the Law, Jesus asks him “What is written in the Law?” (10:26). Of course, the man could read the Law (10:26). People can read the law (scripture) well enough, but how do they understand it — “How does it read to you?” It is man’s misunderstanding of scripture based on human reason that leads to false teachings. When the Sadducees asked their hypothetical question about the resurrection Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures nor the power of God?” (Mk 12:24)

This lawyer did know the law and summarized it with the two great commandments, to love God and your neighbor (10:27). Jesus said he was correct and added, “Do this and live,” (see Leviticus 18:5). The lawyer tried to justify himself and asked, “Who is my neighbor?” His self-

righteous answer came from misunderstanding the Law. Jesus had to teach the lawyer what he did not yet know or understand.

The man's question, "Who is my neighbor?" revealed a major flaw in the understanding of scripture and an ungodly view of a neighbor. The Jews at this time really didn't have "neighbors" as stated in the law (or as we know them). Most of their "neighbors" were enemies, and they did not love their enemies. They hated the Gentiles and called them dogs. They hated the Samaritans even more. In many cases, they didn't even love other Jews. Who was left? They loved only the people who were part of their very narrow, elite group (Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes—and lawyers). They justified their "hate" in one sense from Psalm 139:21-22 which says, "Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with the utmost hatred. They have become my enemies." So, they believed that anyone who was not as "righteous" as they were hated God and were therefore to be considered their enemies.

Jesus replies with the story about a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among robbers (10:30-37). Jerusalem is 3,000 feet up; Jericho is 1,000 feet below sea level. It's only 17 miles between them but is a severe, winding road filled with dramatic drops and rocks providing ideal hiding places for robbers. Even in Jesus' time and later it was a dangerous road known for its robbers.

Robbers attack the man, strip him, and beat him (kept on beating him until he was on the verge of death). Will someone come by to help him? Jesus says, "By coincidence (chance), a priest was going down on that road, (10:32). The priest also knew the law and should know how to show kindness strangers (or neighbor).

But this was a typical priest in the Jewish priestly system of the day who also justified himself to be a righteous man but he "passed by on the other side. Unfortunately, the people knew of such priests in the system and would not too shocked at his behavior. The priests hated their "neighbors" for the same reasons given above.

Then comes a Levite who also passes by on the other side of the road (10:32). The Levites assisted the priests in the temple and worked on the liturgy, music, policed the temple, and took care of the facilities. Still a religious man connected to the priesthood, the Levite would also know the law and should have known enough to help the victim on the road

At this point we've met three people who all knew the Law, but in their hearts, they don't love the Lord their God with all their heart, and they don't love their neighbor, at least as they define a neighbor. Jesus has just indicted the Jewish religious establishment. Now He introduces a Samaritan, a person whom the Jews loved to hate. And the lawyer finally has to look at his own sinful and unrighteous heart if he is going to find "the way of eternal life."

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

Priest: a man who served God in His temple. Priests helped people give offerings to God and to worship and pray. Priests prayed for the people and taught them about God's Law.

lawyer: A man who had learned all about the laws that God gave to His people. The lawyer's work was to teach the people about God's laws, and how God wanted them to live. He should've known that no one could keep God's laws perfectly, but the lawyer in today's lesson did not know that.

Levite: Levites took care of the temple and got things ready for the priests to use in worship and making offerings. Both priests and Levites were helpers in the temple and should have shown God's love to others.

Jerusalem: the great and beautiful city where the temple was.

Jericho: a city a little way from Jerusalem. The road to Jericho was lonely and dangerous to travel on alone, because robbers waited behind the rocks to rob and hurt people.

neighbor: anyone near you who may need your help.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Get to know the children better. Encourage them to talk about their interests or what's happening this week.

Open the class with prayer. Thank God for His care for us this week.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32.”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Fifth Commandment. The previous lesson focused on the words from the explanation, hate, harm, and befriend. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: What does God say in the Fifth Commandment?

That's right: Thou shalt not kill. The meaning of the commandment says that we must not hurt our neighbor in any way. It is wrong to harm our neighbor, but it is also wrong for anyone to harm themselves. The meaning of the Fifth Commandment also says we should help our neighbors in every need. In Commandments Four through Ten, God tells us how we should treat people.

When Jesus lived on earth, He taught His disciples to treat others as they would want to be treated

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. Explain that “lawyer” in NT meant “student of the Law” or teacher of the Scriptures/Torah]

Move on to the next paragraph. Jesus told the lawyer that he had answered correctly. Then Jesus told him to do this and live. Jesus wanted the lawyer to admit he could not keep all of God's laws perfectly, but the lawyer would not. Instead he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus wanted the lawyer to know that everyone was his neighbor, so Jesus told him this story”

Read the third paragraph or tell the story of the Good Samaritan stopping at the point where the wounded man is left helpless in the road.

Ask: Who sinned in the story? It's likely the class will respond with "the thieves". Say, "Yes, the thieves hurt the man so they could steal his money. That was a bad thing to do." If they don't mention the priest or the Levite, **ASK:** Did anyone else sin? Say: The priest who walked by the hurt man sinned by not helping him. The Levite who crossed to the other side of the road instead of going to the man and helping him also sinned. We usually think of a sin as doing something wrong, but we can also

sin by not doing something right. We can sin by what we do or what we do not do.

Read the last paragraph. **Ask** the class what they think will happen to the man in the story. Tell the class that we'll find out in next week's lesson.

Repeat the Memory Verse

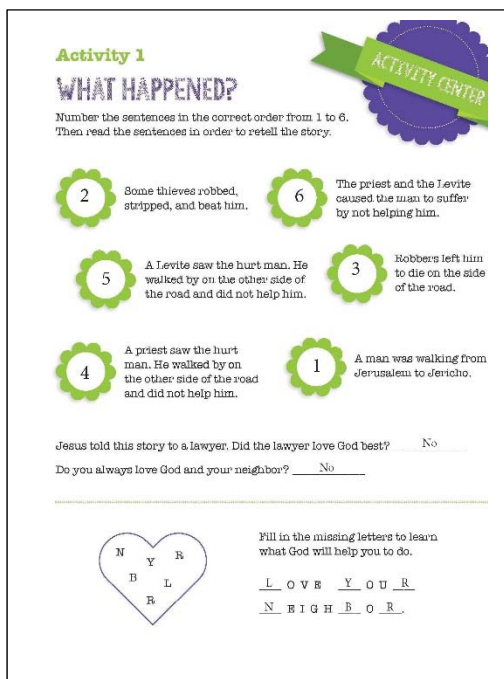
APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

What Happened?

Activity 1

Number the sentence in the correct order, answer the questions, and use the letters in the heart to fill in the blanks.



Activity 1
WHAT HAPPENED?
Number the sentences in the correct order from 1 to 6. Then read the sentences in order to retell the story.

2 Some thieves robbed, stripped, and beat him.

6 The priest and the Levite caused the man to suffer by not helping him.

5 A Levite saw the hurt man. He walked by on the other side of the road and did not help him.

3 Robbers left him to die on the side of the road.

4 A priest saw the hurt man. He walked by on the other side of the road and did not help him.

1 A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho.

Jesus told this story to a lawyer. Did the lawyer love God best? No Yes

Do you always love God and your neighbor? No Yes

Fill in the missing letters to learn what God will help you to do.

Help My Neighbor

Activity 2

Draw ways you can help your neighbor.



Activity 2
HELP MY NEIGHBOR
Draw a picture of you helping your neighbor. What are other ways you can love and help your neighbors?

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: