**1. Motivate**

Growing up, what type of chore or school assignment would you do “just enough” to get by?

* read through the chapter without paying attention to what it said
* scribble down a bunch of answers by guessing
* just rinse the dishes, not really wash them
* don’t bother drying the dishes, just shake the water off and put them away
* leave the dishes in the dish rack to dry, *maybe* remember to return and put them away
* mow the lawn quick, forget about trimming or edging
* when the assignment was write sentences using your spelling words, write “This week our spelling words were, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, … , and \_\_\_\_.”

**2. Transition**

Love compels us to be the neighbor Jesus spoke of.

* Today we look at how loving God will be demonstrated in how we love others.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_sfc9ql4h> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/nd3p677a>

3.1 Love for God ↔ Love for Others

Listen for how Jesus answers.

Luke 10:25-28 (NIV) On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

What different motivations do people have for asking questions about God and of God?

* want to justify themselves
* may honestly want to know Truth
* just want to argue
* want to show that you as a Christian are wrong or foolish
* want to understand why God allowed such a thing to happen
* want to blame God for what happened
* they enjoy debate

The question asked of Jesus was “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” This question is arguably the most important question any person can ask !

Give your opinion why you think the lawyer was or was not sincere in asking it.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sincere | Not Sincere |
| * the subject of the question shows it is sincere
* he was focused on the most important issue of life
 | * it says he asked it to test Jesus
* he already knew a proper answer (as a student of the Law)
 |

If it was *not* a sincere question, but a test … what kind of test do you think this was?

* did Jesus really know what He was talking about
* would Jesus’ answer agree with the lawyer’s opinion
* could the lawyer find some detail of the law to trip up Jesus

Note that Jesus responds with a question of His own (a good teaching technique). How did the legal expert summarize the demands of the Law?

* Love God with all heart, soul, strength, mind
* love your neighbor as yourself
* quoted two different OT texts

What does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself”?

* our natural tendency is to put oneself in first place
* we are quick to watch out for our own interests
* comes naturally (note tendency of a 2 yr old, “MINE”)
* God calls us to act counter to that natural tendency and act the same way towards *others* … looking out for *their interests* … as we do for ourselves

What conditions do we sometimes put on giving love to one another?

* I will love you if you will love me
* I will only be nice to you if you do what I want
* I’ll be mean to you if you don’t treat me nice, if *you* don’t love *me*
* I’ve only got so much love to go around … you may or may not be within my limit

This man was an expert on scripture and the Mosaic Law. How might spending *too much* time simply studying the Bible lead to an unbalanced spiritual life?

* too much theory, not enough practice
* you can end up too heavenly to be any worldly good
* James spoke of faith without works is questionable faith

Actually, too many of us do *not* spend time in scripture – extremes in either direction (too little scripture study or too much *only* study) are unhealthy.

3.2 Love Does Not Ignore Others

Listen for characters in Jesus’ parable.

Luke 10:29-32 (NIV) But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Why do you think the lawyer felt a need to justify himself? How do you understand the intent of his question “And who is my neighbor?”

* depends on the definition of “neighbor”
* is it just the person next door?
* maybe it doesn’t mean the fellow across the street who is mean and always angry at everyone
* does it include people of other ethnic backgrounds? other races, other religions, other economic groups?

Put yourself in the position of the priest or Levite. What would be the pros and cons of stopping to help this man?

* he’s already too far gone to help
* I might be ceremonially unclean if I touch a dead person
* this might be a trap … the robbers might be just waiting for me to stop
* I’m late … cannot be delayed
* I can’t afford to get involved

What natural inclinations make it easier for *you* to act like the priest and the Levite in the story than like the Samaritan? In what ways do we sometimes justify not helping others in need?

* danger – like the man in this story, someone might be planning to use their evident need as a ruse to pull you in
* don’t want to be taken advantage of by a panhandler
* people like that should get a job
* they made bad choices, they should endure the consequences
* we don’t have time or resources to help them
* there are already ministries that minister to such people—shelters, city missions, etc.

How do we overcome barriers like these?

* confess your lack of love and concern for others in need
* Ask God to work in our lives to give us His love for them
* get to know the people, then you realize their true needs
* when they become your friends, you are more willing to help them
* pray for them … often God uses you to be the instrument of answering your own prayers

3.3 Going Out of Your Way to Help

Listen for who is the unlikely hero.

Luke 10:33-37 (NIV) But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Why would a Samaritan be considered an unlikely hero in the story?

* long history of disdain for the Samaritans
* considered “half breed” Jews
* lower class group – during Babylonian captivity, these were the riffraff who were left behind and intermarried with locals
* so when Jews returned from captivity, they had opposed the returnees

What all did the traveling Samaritan do for the injured man?

* bandaged his wounds
* put medicine on them (oil and wine)
* transported the man to an inn
* took care of the man there personally
* paid for additional days of stay in the inn

What attitude differentiated the Samaritan’s response from that of the priest and Levite?

* did not avoid the injured man’s problem
* willing to get involved, to help
* willing to risk possible danger
* willing to invest time, energy, and even money

What can we intentionally do as individual Christians or as a church to help remove the attitudes that prevent God’s love and message of compassion from reaching all people?

* pray for people in need
* ask God to give you compassion that you do not have within yourself
* become involved in outreach ministries,
* become a volunteer (rescue missions, Habitat for Humanity efforts, etc.)
* be a “reading buddy” in local grade schools – many little children need someone to show personal interest

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

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Application

Evaluate your heart.

* Evaluate the true condition of your own heart.
* Ask God to reveal ways you have not been loving toward others and confess that to Him.

Thank someone.

* Reflect on someone who was a loving neighbor to you when you needed one.
* If possible, write that person a note of thanks and appreciation.
* Commit to follow their example.

Be a neighbor.

* Identify someone who needs “a good Samaritan” in his or her life and be that neighbor.
* If needed, partner with 1-2 others in your group to give the assistance and meet the needs of this person.



Fix the Story

Awe, man … this is all I need. Some prankster came along and messed up the story, putting in the wrong words. I’m so busy with summer school. The 2nd grade Sunday school class teacher needs to get the correct print out of the story. I know (most of) the words on the right are the ones changed, I just need you to them put in the right place. If you need help, read your Bible passage, Luke 10:25 - 37. Other family activities available at <https://tinyurl.com/ekrx3jhh>