
 **Luke 10:25-37**

Leader Guide

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 10:25-37
- In This Passage: A man asks Jesus who his neighbor is. Jesus tells a story to show that Jesus-followers care for their neighbors, whether or not those people live near us. In Jesus' story, a man is hurt on the side of the road. Two people walk by without taking action. A third man helps the injured man and gets him to an inn where he can receive care.
- Bible Point: Jesus-followers care for others.
- Summary Verse: "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" (1 John 3:18).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus-followers care for others.* Kids have an amazing opportunity to show their friends how loving and caring Jesus is. This lesson will help your kids understand that the heart of Jesus is showing love and care to others.
- Think About: When has someone cared for you? What did it mean to you? What did it show you about Jesus?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to notice others' needs and respond with Jesus' love and care.

Quick Tip

- For kids who come to church regularly, Bible stories can seem stale. Though the stories are full of truth, it's easy for kids to zone out and get bored when they read or listen to a familiar Bible story. Dig In mixes it up—approaching the Bible in a fresh, creative, and active way.

This Lesson at a Glance



BIBLE MESSAGE

Kids act out the Bible story in small groups.

Supplies

- Bible



PRAYER

Kids go on a prayer walk.



JESUS CONNECTION

Kids make cards for those feeling hurt.

Supplies

- paper
- crayons



SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Kids listen for a chance to be kind to a friend.

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set” (purchase [here](#))
- music player
- upbeat music



BIBLE MEMORY

Kids work together to create actions for a Bible verse.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Older kids do a maze; younger kids color a picture of the Bible story.

Supplies

- “Parable of the Good Samaritan” Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- “Parable of the Good Samaritan” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)



OVERTIME

Kids cross the room with a specific number of points of contact on the floor.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



BIBLE MESSAGE

Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Tip

- Can't form groups of exactly four? Invite adult or teen helpers to join groups as needed, or simply have some kids take on multiple roles of passersby.

Discuss

Say: **Today we'll explore how Jesus-followers care for others. Let's think about people who take care of us!**

Ask: • **Tell about someone who takes care of you.** Share your own example first. Have kids turn to a partner to share. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Say: **Let's find out more about who we can take care of.**

Act Out the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 10, and show kids the words.

Say: **In today's Bible story, Jesus told a parable. A parable is a story that makes a point. Whenever we read one of Jesus' stories, we can think about what point he was trying to make.**

In this case it's not that hard, because his story was in response to a question. Jesus told a man, "Love your neighbor as yourself." And the man asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus told a story. Let's act it out together!

- Form mixed-age groups of four.
- One child in each group will be the Jewish man. The other three will be the priest, the Temple assistant, and the Samaritan.
- Read Luke 10:30-35 slowly, pausing after each sentence for kids to act it out. When the Samaritan puts the man on his donkey, kids can simply offer a hand and help the injured person stand up.
- Have kids take a bow.

Say: **Jesus ended his story with this question: "Which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?"**

Ask: • **How would you answer that question?**

Say: **The man who had asked Jesus about who his neighbor was got it right—the one who helped was the neighbor.**

Ask: • **If Jesus told this story to make a point, what do you think his point was?**

- **Based on this story, how would Jesus define *neighbor*?**

Say: **Usually we think of neighbors as people who live near us. But Jesus redefined that! Jesus said our neighbor is anyone we see who needs help. And Jesus-followers care for others. When we see someone in need, we can stop to help—like a good neighbor.**



PRAYER

Prayer for Help and Guidance

[5 min]

Tip

- If possible and you have a little more time, consider leaving your classroom and guiding kids on a prayer walk around your church building.

Walk and Pray

Say: **Today we're discovering that Jesus-followers care for others. We're going to spend some time praying about that.**

When we pray, we don't always have to sit super still. God likes talking and walking with us, too!

Let's take a prayer walk around our room. As we walk, we'll talk with God. You can just think the words you want to say to God, or you can whisper them aloud. In this case, it's okay if we all talk at once—God hears us all!

As you walk slowly around the room, let's pray for the people we see! When you see a person, think of something they might need and ask God for it. You could ask God to give them a good day, a happy heart, or for them to ace their spelling test this week!

Explain that you'll give kids two minutes, and they can walk anywhere around the room as they pray. After two minutes, have kids stop walking.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, we want to follow you and care for others. Please help us show your love and care to everyone we walk by this week. Amen.**

Ask: • **Who else will you walk by today?**

• **How could you care for those people?**

Say: **Jesus-followers care for others. So let's be on the lookout for people we can care for this week.**



JESUS CONNECTION Care Cards

[10 min]

Supplies

- paper
- crayons

Talk About Hurting People

Say: **Jesus told a story to help people understand who they should care for. In Jesus' story, a man was attacked, robbed, beaten, and left alone.**

Ask: • **Call out words to describe how that man probably felt.** Let kids call out single words.

Say: **The hurt man in the story probably felt pain. He felt left out and alone. He felt worried. He felt unloved.**

Ask: • **Think of someone *you* know who might be feeling those things.** Briefly tell about a friend or family member you're thinking of. You don't need to share a name, but as kids see your kindness and care for others, they're more likely to put emotion and thought into the activity.

Have kids share their own responses in groups of three.

Make Cards

Say: **When Jesus lived on earth, he showed his friends how to care for people.**

Jesus fed people who felt hungry.

Jesus befriended people who felt friendless.

Jesus healed people who were sick.

Jesus helped people who were being bullied.

Jesus didn't just *talk* about caring for others. He did it! And Jesus-followers care for others! Let's not just *talk* about caring—let's do it!

- Set out paper and crayons.
- Have kids think of someone they know who might be feeling some of the things the injured man in the story felt—lonely, in pain, worried, scared, or unloved.
- Allow time for kids to make a card for that person, showing or telling them how much Jesus cares for them. Older kids may want to include a Bible verse or note of encouragement. Younger children can simply draw happy pictures for the recipient.

Ask: • **You made a card for someone who needs care. What other things can we do to care for others?**

Say: **Jesus-followers care for others. We can do many of the things Jesus did—or simply tell people that Jesus loves them! Your cards will be great ways to show Jesus' loving care.**



SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Ready to Be Kind

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set” (purchase [here](#))
- music player
- upbeat music

Tips

- It may take a while for kids to find the Bible verse. That’s okay! This activity is primarily about building Bible navigation skills.
- If you have a lot of non-readers, have some picture Bibles on hand for them to flip through as older kids look up verses. They won’t look for anything specific, but they can look at the pictures to practice paging through Bibles.
- Find upbeat worship music and other great DIG IN resources [here](#).

Explore Romans 12:13

Say: **Jesus told a story about a Samaritan who was ready to help someone in need. He wanted us to understand that Jesus-followers care for others. Let’s see what else the Bible says about helping others.**

Make sure kids all have Bibles. Younger kids can sit with older kids so they can observe the skills of using their Bibles even before being able to read.

Say: **Our Bible verse is in the book of Romans, chapter 12, verse 13. Let’s find the book of Romans. That’s in the New Testament—which is the later part of the Bible. Open your Bible kind of near the back.** Allow time.

- Point to the book of Romans on the poster so kids can see the name and what books come before and after it.
- Mention that the chapter numbers are the big numbers, and help kids find the big 12 in Romans.
- Mention that the verse numbers are the small numbers, and help kids find the small 13 in Romans 12.
- When everyone has found the verse, ask someone to read Romans 12:13 aloud.

Care for Others

Say: **Hospitality means showing kindness and care for others. This verse reminds us to be ready because Jesus-followers care for others. Let’s play a game where you’ll have to be ready! When the music plays, you’ll dance. But get ready for it to stop—then you’ll freeze and listen for a way to show kindness.**

- Turn on upbeat music and have kids dance around while it plays.
- Periodically stop the music and encourage kids to show kindness to each other in various ways, such as:
 - Give someone a high-five.

- Say something kind to someone.
 - Give someone a pat on the back.
 - Give someone a fist bump.
 - Smile at someone.
- Continue playing as time allows.

Ask: • **What did you do in this game so you were ready to freeze?**

• **What can help you be ready to care for others?**

Say: **In this game, you knew you'd need to freeze, so you were paying close attention. We can pay attention to people around us, too! We can always be looking for opportunities to be kind and help others. Jesus-followers care for others.**



BIBLE MEMORY

Love Each Other

[10 min]

Make Up Actions

Say: Jesus-followers care for others. God's words in the Bible remind us how important it is to love and care for each other. Let's learn a Bible verse now!

First John 3:18 says, "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

The Bible is made of different kinds of writing. This verse comes from the Letters section in the New Testament. It was written to Jesus' followers to remind them to care for each other with words *and* actions.

Let's work together to make up actions for this verse. That way, we can say the verse with our words *and* with our actions!

Say the verse in short sections, and have kids work together to create actions for each part. Then say and do the verse together several times.

- "Dear children,
- let's not merely say
- that we love
- each other;
- let us show the truth
- by our actions."
- 1 John 3:18

Talk About It

Ask: • What are some words that show love?

• What are some actions that show love? Challenge kids to think about actions from the Bible story, as well as their own lives.

Say: You got to say the verse with words *and* actions. And that's how God's love works, too! We can use our words *and* actions to love others. Jesus-followers care for others. Like the Samaritan's actions showed love to the man who was hurt, our actions can show God's love to people, too.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Stop and Help

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Parable of the Good Samaritan” Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- “Parable of the Good Samaritan” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)

Tip

- **WARNING!** Don’t just print and distribute! [Here’s why](#).

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **Jesus told the parable about the Samaritan to show that Jesus-followers care for others. He wants us to be like the Samaritan who stopped to help. So let’s find our way through this maze, making sure we stop for the people who need help.**

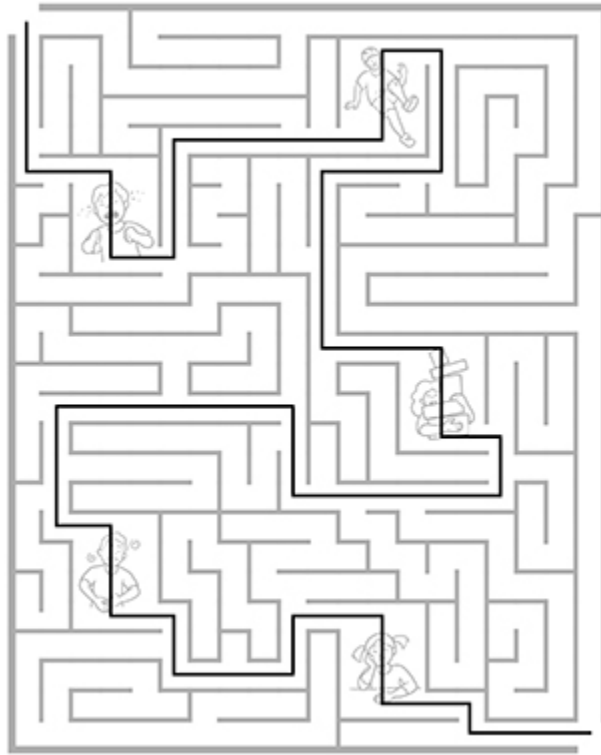
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will go through the maze.

Ask: • **What was different about going through this maze?**

• **What’s one way you could help someone in this maze?**

Say: **You could have gone through the maze faster, but you went out of your way to help people. That’s what Jesus calls us to do! Jesus-followers care for others.**

ANSWER KEY:



Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Jesus told a story about a man who was hurt. Two people passed by, and one stopped to help! Jesus wants us to be like the third person, because Jesus-followers care for others. Let's color the third man stopping to care for the one who was hurt.**

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.



[10 min]

Cross the Room

Say: **In Jesus' story, when a man was hurt, the first two people to pass avoided any contact with him. But the third one stopped, bandaged his wounds, and took him to a safe place. Jesus-followers care for others.**

In this game, you'll need to care for your partner and help them!

- Have kids form pairs.
- Have pairs line up along one wall.
- Each pair will move to the opposite wall, but you'll call out how many points of contact each pair can have with the ground. Plus, kids in each pair must stay in physical contact with one other as they move.
- For example, if you call out "four," the pair can link elbows and just walk to the finish line. If you call out "three," one of them will have to hop while the other helps. How they decide to move is up to them. Hands, feet, elbows, knees, and so on can each be points of contact.
- Call out numbers between two and 16 at random.
- Celebrate creative solutions! When pairs make it to the finish line, declare it's now the starting line and send them on back with a different number.
- After a couple of rounds, pause for discussion.

Ask: • **How well do you think you and your partner are helping each other?**

• **How can you help people accomplish their goals in real life?**

Say: **Remember, Jesus-followers care for others. We help others and celebrate successes with them!**

Let the game keep going as long as needed to fill time until parents begin to arrive.