

# ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

## LESSON 3

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us to Show Compassion

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. He shares a parable about the one neighbor—a Samaritan—who showed mercy and compassion to an Israelite in need of help.

**WORD OF WONDER:** 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' —Luke 10:27 (NIrV)

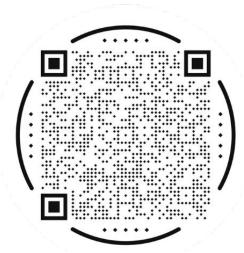
## **CURIOSITY**

# **BELIEF**

## FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who is your neighbor? How have you helped your neighbor?
- Curiosity Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Luke 10:27
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Responding in Worship: Loving My Neighbor
- Optional Closing Game: Path of Compassion





What Did He Say? Elementary Spotify playlist



## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

## INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

#### **LESSON AT A GLANCE**

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us to Show Compassion

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10

WORD OF WONDER: Luke 10:27

When the lawyer in Luke 10 asked Jesus the question, I wonder if he expected a checklist. If he knew Him, however, he should have known that inheriting eternal life would not be reduced to a checklist.

This "expert in the law" just wanted to know how to do the thing. "How do I inherit eternal life?" he asked. He probably thought he had it in the bag, and this would simply be confirmation. He ecited the answer he had memorized: "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'" (Luke 10:27, NIV).

But Jesus wanted more: He wanted the man's life to change. So Jesus responded with a parable, knowing that those who have ears to hear will understand His story. Take a few moments now to read Luke 10:25–37.

Have you ever heard a sermon and thought, "It was like the pastor was speaking directly to me! It's like he saw me this week!" You had ears to hear that message—the double-edged sword of God's Word cut right to the heart.

This lawyer needed to consider who his neighbor was. It's easy to show compassion to the people we know and understand, but Jesus wanted him (and He wants us) to know that our neighbor is the one who is near to us. Our mission is to show compassion to whoever God leads us to on any given day, because showing compassion is evidence of our faith—of the family we belong to and our inheritance of eternal life.

#### —Courtney Wilson

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

## **FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

#### WHO?

Samaritans and Jews were not normally friendly with each other. Even Jesus' own followers asked God to judge Samaritans harshly with fi e from heaven (Luke 9:51–56). But Jesus makes a certain Samaritan the compassionate "neighbor" of His story.

#### WHAT?

For priests, purity rules required avoiding any contact with corpses. Nonetheless, the merciful preservation of life would always take precedence. A priest or Levite can offer life-preserving aid, but in the story they each make a deliberate choice to avoid risk or inconvenience.

#### WHERE?

Eventually, Jesus' disciples will preach the message of Jesus in the villages of Samaria (Acts 8:25). In doing so, they will fulfill Jesu 'parting words in Acts 1:8 as they testify from Judea, to Samaria, to the very ends of the earth.

#### WHEN?

This parable comes shortly after Jesus sent out His 72 disciples to carry the message of the kingdom to local villages and towns (Luke 10:1–20). Jesus' growing reputation prompts a teacher of the law to test Him.

## **CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

God redeems the world through the children of Abraham, and Jesus is the promised descendant of Abraham (Galatians 3:16). Because of Jesus, racial or ethnic boundaries are no obstacle for God, for Jews and Gentiles are members of one body in Christ (Ephesians 3:6).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY

**Small Group** 

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

## **LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Teaches Us to Show Compassion

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10

WORD OF WONDER: Luke 10:27

## Pre-Service (15-20 min)

## **RESOURCES:** Coloring Page

Small group leaders should be in place 30 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged <u>WITH you</u>. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

#### While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

## I'm curious...

- What do you think it means to show someone compassion?
- Do you think everyone deserves compassion? Why or why not?

## **Welcome Question**

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: **"Who is your neighbor? How have you helped your neighbor?** Share your answers aloud with each other while you are engaging in your pre-service activities.

**Leader Tip:** Kids in your ministry likely live in all different types and sizes of homes. Avoid drawing attention to the size or type of houses or apartments. Instead, individually affirm kids on their drawings, and show interest in the ways they have helped their neighbors!

# Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5-8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid

Distribute Bibles to all kids and help them find Luke 10. Explain to kids that today's story is in the New Testament. Encourage kids to find the passages in their own Bibles and follow along. Remind kids the chapter is the big black number, and the verses are the little black numbers. If kids struggle with finding passage, have volunteers assist them. Read Luke 10:25–37 as kids follow along.

- What did you wonder about in the parable Jesus told in God's big story today? What surprised you?
- Who asked Jesus a question to try to test Him?
- Jesus told an imaginative story about a man traveling to Jericho. How did the man in the story get hurt?
- In the story Jesus told, who had mercy on the man and helped him?
- Have you ever noticed someone who needed help but didn't help them? Tell about it.
- Based on what Jesus taught in this story, who is your neighbor?
- Can you think of a time when someone showed compassion to you? Tell about it.

"The characters in Jesus' parable showed different ways we might treat our neighbors. Sometimes, we might choose to walk by someone in need instead of showing compassion. Sometimes, we might choose to ignore their cry for help because we are too busy or don't like them. Jesus showed us a different way. His way is all about love and mercy, no matter who is in need. Let's talk to God and ask Him to open our eyes to see our neighbors with His compassion!"

## **Prayer Time: Younger Kids**

Encourage kids to sit together and share their praises and prayer requests. Some kids may be reluctant to pray, so offer your praises and requests fist. Consider going around the circle or having kids jump up and share. Also, consider directing the prayer time toward their compassion for the people in their lives who may need their mercy and help.

**Leader Tip:** This is a great time for kids to pray for their neighbors!

# Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8-12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid

Distribute Bibles to all kids and encourage kids to find Luke 10 in their own Bibles. Be sure to help new kids who are not familiar with the Bible. Show them the table of contents and page numbers.

Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.

Encourage kids to pair up and read Luke 10:25–37 with a partner. Next, read it aloud one more time as kids follow along.

- What did you wonder about in the parable Jesus told in God's big story today? What surprised you?
- Who in the imaginative story do you relate to most, or who do you think you are most like?
   Why?
- What question did the expert in the law ask Jesus to test Him?
- What two things did the law tell the people they should give to God and their neighbors?
- In the parable that Jesus told, what did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the man on the side of the road? What did the Samaritan do?
- Which one of the travelers would you have been? Why?
- How does this imaginative story change how you see your neighbor?

Love God. Love our neighbors. It seems pretty simple, doesn't it? But we don't always make it simple. Sometimes we choose to walk by someone who is hurting instead of showing love. We choose to think of ourselves first, instead of giving mercy. Jesus shows us the way of compassion. His way is different. Let's talk to God and ask Him to help us see our neighbors in a new way, with His love and mercy!

\*\*\*Have kids turn to their RBKids Notes Page and invite them to fill in the questions and spaces.

Talk through each section with them, engaging in conversation about their answers. Instruct them to use the bottom "Small Group" section to write any thoughts, prayers, or questions from today that they want to talk to their parents about when they get home.

# **Prayer Time: Older Kids**

Encourage kids to find wo people they don't know well and sit with them. Give them time to share their praises and prayer requests. Consider allowing them to share why they may struggle to offer compassion to certain people. Encourage kids to pray as a small group and ask God to give them His compassion for others.

# **Word of Wonder**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

The Word of Wonder for the What Did He Say? series is Luke 10:27. It comes from today's part of God's big story in which Jesus told a parable to help us understand what it actually means to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our neighbors are all of those who are around us, not just the people living next door. And just as Jesus loves everyone and shows compassion, He helps us love everyone too! This verse also tells us to love God with all that we are! Let's read the Word of Wonder together!

Have kids open their Bibles to Luke 10:27. Read it aloud together and, on the second read-through, have kids make a heart shape using their hands.

Discuss these questions:

- How are we to love God?
- How does loving God help us love our neighbor?

# **Word of Wonder Activity**

**SUPPLIES:** disposable cups (31 per group for NIrV; 34 per group for NIV), permanent markers (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, set out plastic cups and markers.

Display the Word of Wonder Slide on the screen. Say the verse as a group. Then say the verse with girls only. Then say the verse with boys only. Finally, say the verse as one group again.

Give each kid a permanent marker and one or more cups. As you say each word of the verse and reference, point to a specific kid to write the word on his plastic cup. Be sure there is only one word written on each cup. Encourage kids to scatter cups on the floor. Play a game by stacking the cups in correct verse order. Cups may be stacked inside each other or flipped upside down and stacked in a pyramid. Consider playing several rounds and having different teams compete for the fastest time. You might designate teams of all girls, all boys, or specific age groups.

**Leader Tip:** Remind kids to write slowly and carefully with the permanent markers. If your group is especially energetic, consider writing on the cups ahead of time.

**Leader Tip:** For Younger Kids. Write on the cups ahead of time, one word per cup. Give each kid one or two cups, and make sure they know what is written on them. Then as you say the verse slowly, encourage kids to hold their cup high in the air when they hear the word on it.

# **Responding in Worship: Loving My Neighbor**

**SUPPLIES:** pens or pencils (1 per kid), coloring utensils (1 per kid)

**RESOURCES:** Loving My Neighbor Sheet (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, make copies of the Loving My Neighbor Sheet. It includes two pages. If possible, print them back-to-back. Set out pens or pencils.

Gather kids together. Display the Responding in Worship Slide.

**Leader Tip:** Remind kids that their neighbors are all the people around them. This activity offers two options of neighbors they may focus on: their neighborhood or the kids in their classoom at school.



## Make It Inclusive!

Some kids may have difficulty writing or drawing their ideas on paper. Consider modifying this activity using blocks so that they may instead build the houses in their neighborhood. As they build, talk about who their neighbors are and how they can show compassion to them.

"In God's big story today, Jesus reminded us about the importance of loving God and loving people. He used a parable to show what compassion looks like. The Samaritan man passing by saw someone in need and decided to do something about it. He didn't walk by like the priest and Levite did. He didn't snub his nose at him, nor did he think the man wasn't worthy of his compassion. He had mercy on the man and showed him great compassion. He cared for him.

Sometimes, it's easy for us to walk past hurting people, or people who are in desperate need of love and support. Sometimes, we are like the priest and Levite, who choose to walk away from hurting people because we don't want to deal with their mess.

Close your eyes and think about your neighbors. Remember, your neighbor is anyone around you.

Think about where you live, your neighborhood, or your street. Who lives there? Do you know them? Do you know their names?

Now, think about the kids in your class at school. They are your neighbors too. Who sits beside you? Who sits in the back of the room? Who has friends and who doesn't? Do you know someone who is going through a hard time?

Jesus teaches us to show compassion to all of them. Every single one. No matter who they are.

Show kids both sides of the Loving My Neighbor Sheet. Ell them to think about their neighborhood or class at school and the people who are in those settings. Walk kids through the following instructions, pausing after each:

- Choose the neighborhood or classroom side of your sheet.
- Write names on the homes or desks of the people who are in those settings. Or draw stick figu es to represent those people. They don't have to be in the right order.
- Circle the homes of the neighbors or desks of classmates you know well.
- Put a box around the homes or desks of the people you don't know well.
- Color two homes or desks of neighbors you want to show compassion to this week.
- In the "Loving My Neighbor" box, write or draw a few ideas of how you will show compassion to those people.

When kids finish, invite a offer a prayer over the families and classmates represented on kids' sheets. Ask the Holy Spirit to help each kid as they show compassion to their neighbors this week.

# **Optional Closing Game: Path of Compassion**

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (6 colors, 2 sheets of each color), bowl, scissors (prep only) Ahead of time, cut one sheet of each color of construction paper in half. Write the following phrases on six of the half sheets (and leave the other six blank):

- 1. Smile at someone.
- 2. Take someone's favorite toy away.
- 3. Hold the door open for someone.
- 4. Ignore a person sitting alone.
- 5. Make cookies for a neighbor.
- 6. Laugh when a friend falls.

Spread the 12 pieces of paper in a path around the room. Mix the blank pieces with the pieces with words. To make the "draw" cards for the path, cut the other sheets of construction paper into smaller rectangles, mix them up, and place them in a bowl.

Gather kids together and explain the rules of the game.

When it's your turn, draw a paper from the bowl and say the color of the paper. You will go to a piece of paper that is that color and stand on it. If there is something written on it, I will read it to you. If it has an example of compassion, put your hands on your heart and say, "Jesus teaches us to show compassion!" If it doesn't have an example of compassion, just stand quietly.

The kids will complete the activity one or two at a time. If you have a large group, you can add more papers. Help kids through the game by reading the different spaces and helping them determine whether the statement is an example of showing compassion.