

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 neighbor 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. —Luke 10:27a (NIRV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Curiosity Activity: Compassion Ripples
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: Luke 10:27a
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us to Show Compassion

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WORD OF WONDER: Luke 10:27a

When the lawyer 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.

In Luke 10, 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 was simply confirmation. He recited 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” (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.

For this lawyer, he 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 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 fire 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 Jesus' 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 has 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 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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WORD OF WONDER: Luke 10:27a

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac! You look tired. What have you been doing?

Tac the Cat: Phew! I am so tired! I have been at my neighbor's house all day.

Leader: Really? What were you doing at your neighbor's house?

Tac the Cat: My neighbor, Drib the Bird's mom, needed some help in the garden. So I've been digging in the garden, getting all those weeds up.

Leader: Wow, Tac! That is so thoughtful of you. You did a great job of showing God's love by being kind to your neighbor. Is that why you are so tired?

Tac the Cat: Well, actually ... not completely. You see, while I was digging in the garden, I heard a loud crash. When I went to look, I saw Drib's mom lying on the ground. She had fallen!

Leader: Oh my! How terrible. What did you do?

Tac the Cat: I ran over to her and asked her if she was OK. She said she would be fine; she was just sore and had a few scrapes.

Leader: Oh my. I hope Drib the Bird's mom is going to be OK.

Tac the Cat: I think she will be. I went and got her a wet cloth to wipe her scratches—and you know how much I don't like water! Then I found a bandage for her, and I patched her up, good as new!

Leader: You know, Tac, what you did reminds me of our Wonder Truth today. In fact, not only were you kind to Drib the Bird's mom, but you also showed compassion. Compassion is showing kindness to others and going an extra step by helping them when they need it.

Tac the Cat: Compassion? That's a new word for me, but I like the sound of it!

Leader: Tac, showing compassion is a way for others to see God's love in our lives. Jesus teaches us to show compassion, and we are going to hear more about that today.

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! After we talk more about compassion, I think I'm going to check on Drib the Bird's mom again. Maybe she needs a yummy snack too!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: who is your neighbor? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever helped someone? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God wants us to show compassion to others?

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS TEACHES US TO SHOW COMPASSION**. Today, we'll discover how Jesus teaches us to show compassion to everyone!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

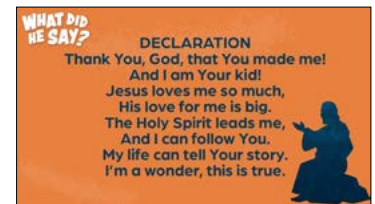
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **"God, thank You for being with us today. We are so excited to learn more about You. Please help us listen closely as the Holy Spirit guides us in understanding Your Word. Show us how we can share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen."**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how Jesus teaches us to show compassion to everyone we meet. Let's sing about showing compassion together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: I Love You So Much, Never Better.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where to find the story.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

"Listen closely. For today's God's big story, whenever you hear the word "neighbor," clap your hands once. Whenever you hear the word "compassion," jump up and cheer.

A man came to Jesus and asked, "Who is my *neighbor*?" Clap. To answer the man's question, Jesus told a parable, which is an imaginative story to teach something true and important.

A man was traveling from Jericho when robbers attacked him. They tore his clothes and hurt him. They were not good *neighbors*. Clap.

Others were traveling on the same road. First, a priest came by. But instead of being a good *neighbor* (clap) and stopping to help the hurt man, the priest moved to the other side and kept walking.

Then a Levite came. A Levite was another kind of priest who served God. But instead of stopping to help his hurt *neighbor* (clap), the Levite crossed to the other side of the road and kept walking. The priest and Levite forgot the part of God's Law about loving their *neighbor*! Clap.

Next, a Samaritan man came. Samaritans did not get along with Jewish people. The Samaritan man didn't let that keep him from doing the right thing. He saw this man, his *neighbor* (clap), was hurt and stopped to help. He showed compassion (cheer) when he stopped to put bandages and medicine on the man's wounds. He put the Jewish man on his donkey and took him to an inn where he paid the innkeeper to take care of his *neighbor*. Clap.

Jesus asked, "Which of these three men was a *neighbor* (clap) to the hurt man?" The man who stopped and helped was a *neighbor*! Clap. Jesus was helping His followers understand that everyone around us is a *neighbor*. Clap. We are commanded to love our *neighbors*. Clap. Jesus taught us to show love to those who are enemies! Jesus teaches us to show compassion." Cheer.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS TEACHES US TO SHOW COMPASSION**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God redeems the world through Jesus, a Jew and the promised descendant of Abraham. Because of Jesus, our differences are no obstacle for God: now Jews and non-Jews are members of one body in Christ! The Samaritan in Jesus' parable demonstrated this truth well when he showed compassion to a Jewish man!"

Prayer and Blessing

Pray over kids, thanking God for helping us show compassion to others.

Use your own words, use the words below if needed:

"God, thank You for teaching us today. Thank You for showing us compassion. Please help us show compassion to others this week, even if it is difficult. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Speak a blessing from your own heart and spirit, use the guide below if needed.

Blessing: "God loves you and shows compassion to you. May you find ways to be kind and show compassion to others so they may see God's love. "