

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.

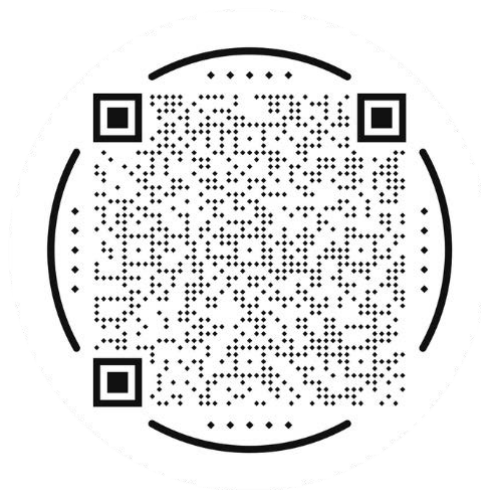
WORD OF WONDER: Love the Lord your God with all your heart. —Luke 10:27a (NIRV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Doctor Play
 - Neighborhood Blocks
 - The Good Samaritan Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Compassion Ripples
- LARGE GROUP
- Snack and Connect
- Word of Wonder: Luke 10:27a
- Circle Time: Pass the Cup
- Craft: Cotton Swab Painting
- Responding in Worship: Compassion Wall



[What Did He Say? Preschool 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 10:27a

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

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10

WORD OF WONDER: Luke 10:27a

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: various baby dolls and stuffed animals, bandages (adhesive and fabric), gauze, assorted blocks, toy cars, coloring utensils, toy doctor kit (optional)

RESOURCES: [The Good Samaritan Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Doctor Play

Set-up: Place various baby dolls and stuffed animals on a table. Add an assortment of adhesive bandages, fabric bandages, gauze, and a toy doctor kit (if available) to the table. Provide enough of the various doctor items for kids to choose several.

Play: Encourage kids to play doctor with the dolls and stuffed animals. Ask kids why their dolls/animals are sick and how they can help them. You can encourage the kids to be compassionate as they pretend to tend to their sick or hurt toys.

Play Station: Neighborhood Blocks

Set-up: Set blocks on the table or floor so kids can build with them. Add toy cars to help create the idea of streets in neighborhoods.

Play: Let the kids use blocks to build a neighborhood. As they build, talk with the kids about the neighborhoods where they live. Ask kids if they know who their neighbors are.

Leader Tip: Consider that kids might live in different types of neighborhoods. Encourage them to represent the type of building that is theirs. For example, the neighborhood might include both houses and apartments.

Play Station: The Good Samaritan Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Good Samaritan Coloring Sheet. Set out the sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of themselves helping someone.

Curiosity Activity: Compassion Ripples

SUPPLIES: shoebox-size clear plastic container, water, objects of various sizes and weights (bead, fake flower, leaf, coin, rock, toy bug, etc.)

Fill a low and wide container halfway with water. Set the various objects to the side of the water.

"Check out my container of water! Do you see how still it is? I wonder what will happen when I drop one of these objects in the water. What do you think will happen?" Allow kids to respond. **Let's test it out.** Drop the objects in the water one at a time. Comment on the ripples and impact each object makes on the water.

That was fun! Each one of these objects caused ripples in the water. That makes me think of our actions, or what we do each day. Small actions, such as smiling at someone, can still cause a ripple of kindness or compassion. Your smile can brighten someone else's day. Then maybe that person will say something encouraging to another person. Bigger actions like helping someone who is hurt can also cause a ripple of kindness. Both big and small actions can affect others, just like both big and small objects cause ripples.

What are some kind actions you can think of? Allow kids to respond. **Those are some great answers! Who do you think you can be kind to?** Allow kids to respond. **Today, we're going to learn about a man's kind actions that showed he had compassion for his neighbor. We'll learn that Jesus teaches us to show compassion!"**

Head to Large Group!

Snack and Connect

While snack is being eaten, show kids how you open your Bible and find the book of Matthew.

*Allow kids to open, touch, and look at the Bible. Explain how these stories are real.

[Read pages 284-287 in the My First Hands on Bible.](#)

"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!"

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, parachute or bedsheet, lightweight or inflatable ball

WORD OF WONDER

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

—Luke 10:27a

"Today, we're learning that Jesus teaches us to show compassion. We can show compassion to anyone around us. Did you know that God showed compassion to us when He gave us Jesus? God loves us so much that He gave us His only Son, Jesus."

The Bible tells us to love God with all our hearts. We can choose to love God because He loved us first. Let's say our Word of Wonder together.

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

- **LOVE**—Give yourself a hug.
- **THE LORD YOUR GOD**—Point up.
- **WITH ALL YOUR HEART**.—Put your hands over your heart.
- **LUKE 10:27a**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Guide kids to stand and hold on to the edges of the parachute or bedsheet, stretching it taut to create a flat surface. Toss the ball onto the parachute and encourage kids to lift the parachute up and down to pop the ball up into the air.

Let's say our Word of Wonder while we are tossing the ball on our parachute! Ready? Lead kids in saying the Word of Wonder several times while tossing the ball.

Leader Tip: Challenge kids to pop the parachute at different speeds as they say the Word of Wonder.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Why should we choose to love God?**
- **How can your actions show that you love God with all your heart?**

Circle Time: Pass the Cup

SUPPLIES: cup, jumbo craft sticks (6), permanent marker (prep only)

RESOURCES: song from the [What Did He Say? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before the activity, use a marker to number the six craft sticks from one to six, and place them in the cup with the number side toward the bottom.

Guide kids to sit in a circle. **"We're going to pass this cup around the circle while the music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the cup can choose a stick from the cup and answer the question that goes with the number on the stick."**

Play a song from the [What Did He Say? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) as the cup is passed around the circle and stop the music at various times. The number on the craft stick selected corresponds to the list of questions below. Continue to play until all the questions have been answered.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to answer the question if they are comfortable. If they seem hesitant, allow a friend to help them out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Which of the three men (Levite, Priest, or Samaritan) showed compassion to the hurt man?**
(the Samaritan)
- **How did the Samaritan show compassion?** (He helped the man who was hurt.)
- **How could you show compassion to a friend who gets hurt?**
- **How could you show compassion to someone who is sad?**
- **How could you show compassion to someone who is playing by himself?**
- **Why do you think Jesus wants us to show compassion to our neighbors?**

"Our Word of Wonder tells us to love God with all our hearts. When we show compassion to everyone around us, we are showing our love for God to others. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for showing us compassion and helping us to show compassion to others.

Responding in Worship: Compassion Wall

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, markers, tape, large adhesive bandages (at least 2 per kid, optional)

Before kids arrive, draw two large hearts on the butcher paper with enough room for kids to write and draw inside the hearts.

"The Samaritan saw the man who was hurt, and he showed compassion to him. Who shows compassion to you?" Allow the kids to respond. Invite the kids to write a person's name (or an initial to represent the name) inside one of the hearts. If providing adhesive bandages, the kids can write that person's name or initial on the bandage and attach it to the butcher paper.

What are some ways these people show compassion? Invite the kids to write or draw their answers inside the heart with the names.

God is so good to give us people who show us compassion. He can help us to show compassion to others too! Let's think of people we can show compassion to this week. Invite the kids to write a person's name (or an initial to represent the name) inside the other heart. If providing adhesive bandages, the kids can write that person's name or initial on the bandage and attach it to the butcher paper.

How can we show compassion to these people?" Invite the kids to write or draw their answers inside the second heart. Hang the Compassion Wall somewhere prominent in your room so the kids can see the names and ideas they shared.

Craft: Cotton Swab Painting

SUPPLIES: Back of Coloring Page, coloring utensils, cotton swabs (a few per kid), small paper plates (1 for every 2 kids), washable paint (5 colors)

Instruct kids to turn their coloring page over and give coloring utensils to each kid. Put a small amount of all five colors of washable paint on paper plates, with enough plates for every pair of kids to have one.

"Today we're learning about showing compassion to our neighbors. We can show compassion to others because Jesus shows us compassion and teaches us to show compassion to others. When we do that, people can see God's love through us. Take your sheet of paper and draw the outside of a house on it. Demonstrate to kids how they can draw a simple house with their coloring utensils: by drawing a large square and then a triangle on top of the square.



Next, draw a heart inside your house. The house represents the people in our lives. Whether or not you live in a house like this or have actual neighbors who live near you, you have people in your life who need help! We can show compassion to others.

Help kids as needed. Distribute small plates with five colors of paint on each plate. Give each kid a few cotton swabs.

Let's use our cotton swabs to dab paint inside the heart on our paper. As you dab your paint, think about your neighbors. These neighbors might live right next to you, or they might be people you see when you are away from your home. Remember, a neighbor is anyone we meet who needs help. Allow kids to begin dabbing their paint inside the hearts on their sheets. **While you are painting, you can also talk to God. Ask Him to help you show compassion to others this week."**