

## **Lesson 9**

### **Love Your Enemy**

#### **Lesson Overview**

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 10:33-37 Romans 5: 6-10

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Luke 6:27-28

CATECHISM: The Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- understand that we are all helpless and need the love of Jesus
- ask God for help to treat neighbors with kindness and helpfulness
- 

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson focuses on the second part of the parable of the Good Samaritan but it begins with a review of the story from last week’s lesson which focused on 2 men, a temple worker and a Levite who were not examples of a good neighbor. Today we finish the story with the Good Samaritan. Point out the issues between the Jews and the Samaritans, they were enemies yet the Samaritan took care of the Jewish man. The Samaritan went above and beyond in his care the injured man. Jesus then asks the lawyer who was a good neighbor. Jesus was a perfect example of loving each and every person.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How are we to love our neighbor? Who in the story loved his neighbor? Who did not? Who is our neighbor? Possibly talk about who are our neighbors in school, at home, the playground for example. How did Jesus show us that he loves every person? When we fail to love our neighbor what can we do? How can God help us love our neighbor better?

ACTIVITY 1: 1. by the side of the road. 2. a Jew. 3. enemies. 4. a Samaritan. 5. cleaned the man’s cuts. 6. took the man to an inn. 7. paid the innkeeper to care for the hurt man. 8. The man who showed mercy. 9. people who need help. 10. not always kind and good. 11. forgiveness for our sin.

ACTIVITY 2: Do our neighbor no harm, but help and befriend him in every need.

## TEACHER PREPARATION

### Prepare to Teach

Read through the lesson early in the week.

Ask God to bring it back to mind during the week.

Ponder the lesson off and on during the week as you prepare to teach the lesson Sunday.

### Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His mercy in Christ who died for all people.
- Pray that your life would be an example of faith and kindness.
- Pray for the children to have open receptive hearts.

### Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

### Bible Background

Luke 10:33-37, Romans 5:6-10

We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm or cause him any suffering. We follow the first part of the meaning if we don't actively injure our neighbor. But the meaning goes on to say that we are to help and befriend him in every need. Depending on the circumstance, that could require a sacrifice on our part. "To help and befriend" means we really are our brothers' keepers. We are to be actively kind and look for opportunities to help whenever we can.

When the Samaritan saw the helpless man, he felt compassion (Luke 10:33). Compassion is not just pity—it means he was stirred within and was moved to take action. The same word is used to describe how Jesus felt toward sinners (Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 18:27). Compassion describes how God feels toward us. "...God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:4,5).

When we show compassion, we are treating others the way God treated us (I John 4:19). Our memory verse (Eph 4:32) describes it as being kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving. Because of what God has done for us through Christ, we forgive and deal kindly with other people.

Compassion moved the Samaritan and that meant making contact and offering practical help. To this lawyer and his kind, the very existence of Samaritans was seen as an evil, a pariah and a blight on the world. Going ay back to the sins of Jeroboam, they were evil because they intermarried with the Gentiles when the Northern Kingdom was occupied. They were half-breed traitors. If you wanted to say the worst about someone, you called him a Samaritan. This is what the Jews said to Jesus (Jn 8:48): "Do we not say rightly that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

The other two men were religious and failed to obey the law. They didn't love their neighbor. They didn't love strangers. They didn't love enemies. Then Jesus brings in a character whom the lawyer considered worst of all men, but who demonstrates the quality of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Their worst enemy felt compassion for the beaten man, and this must have really aggravated the lawyer who has to hear that the Samaritan's help is so extensive.

The Samaritan cleaned and bandaged the man's wounds. Then he took the man to an inn and stayed the night. The next day He told the innkeeper to look after him and he would pay those expenses when he came back this way.

This inn is not like what we might think of as a roadside inn today. This is a rough, tough roadside lodging, brutally sparse. You would only want to be there if it were an emergency and couldn't go any farther.

Then the next day, he takes out two denarii for the man's future care. How much did he really pay? Some literature from about this time describes a board that was found, some kind of a sign board from an inn in a city in the Roman Empire. The nightly cost was 1/32nd of a denarius, which means that for the two denarii the man could stay for two months. Jesus makes the point that the Samaritan's love for this man was lavish. Does God not love us lavishly?

This is amazing generosity for a complete stranger by a person who was so hated. Jesus is saying that this is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. That's what you'd do for you, wouldn't you? Do we do that all the time?

Now Jesus asks the question, verse 36, "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

The lawyer's question in verse 29 was "Who is my neighbor?" But Jesus has just changed the question. This is not about who is my neighbor, but what kind of neighbor am I, and that requires examining the heart. "Am I a neighbor who loves in an unqualified way?" Forget trying to decide who qualifies for you to love them and demonstrate your love without qualifications.

The conviction is laid upon the lawyer and there's a blank space and the next words are, "Now, as they were traveling along." What had Jesus done? Wasn't this an odd way to do evangelism? Actually, it is the right way. The man was not ready yet to hear the "good news" of God's love in Christ.

This story is not meant to make people feel guilty about not taking care of those that are suffering or in some need of help. This story is designed to convict people of not loving God or others perfectly and convicting them of their sin by the Law. That should set one running to the One who alone can provide forgiveness for sin and can give eternal life.

## Learn the New Words

*It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.*

**Samaritan:** a person from Samaria. The Jews hated them because they didn't belong to God's people. The Jews would not talk to Samaritans or do anything with them.

**Jews:** A person from the country where Jesus lived. A Jew was one of the people who worshipped God.

**enemies:** when people hate each other and do things to hurt each other we say they are enemies. Jews and Samaritans were enemies. They hated each other.

**inn:** a place like a hotel or motel where people stay when they are on a trip.

**innkeeper:** the person who takes care of an inn. People who stayed at an inn paid him money.

**show mercy:** When someone shows mercy to someone, he is sorry for that person, is kind to him, and helps him.

**Good Samaritan:** the man that helped the man who was robbed and hurt.

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying that God will help us listen and allow Him to teach us what He wants us to learn from this lesson.

**SHARING:** Ask the children if they have been kind to someone this week or if someone has been kind

### Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

### Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Fifth Commandment. We stopped in the middle of the story of the Good Samaritan. See if the students can remember what has happened to this point. Review the beginning of the Good Samaritan and briefly catch up anyone who wasn’t present last Sunday.

## TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

### Introduce the Lesson

**SAY:** We have learned that we do not keep the Ten Commandments perfectly. We can’t always do what God wants us to do, no matter how hard we try. We need to pray, asking Jesus to forgive our sins. Was there ever anyone who kept the Ten Commandments perfectly? Yes, Jesus did. He did what we cannot do. Then He died on the cross for our sins.

### Read the Lesson

**Read** the opening paragraph.

**SAY** Jesus was teaching the lawyer a special lesson with the story that He told him. The lawyer didn’t know he needed to hear and learn this lesson, but Jesus did.

**ASK:** Who is our neighbor? (responses). What did Jesus want to teach the lawyer? (responses). Yes that he should be a good neighbor, even to someone who wasn’t his friend.

**ASK:** Do you remember how the man was hurt? Robbers beat him and stole his money. They didn’t even care if he died. They disobeyed the Fifth Commandment.

**ASK:** What did the priest and Levite do? They ignored him and walked on by him like he wasn’t even there. They disobeyed the Fifth Commandment too. The meaning says we should be a friend to anyone who needs help.

Tell the rest of the story or ask volunteers to read the next two paragraphs. Emphasize that the Samaritan helped the Jew even though they were enemies.

**ASK:** What did Jesus want the lawyer to understand? That he should be a good neighbor even to his enemies. Jesus also wanted the lawyer to understand that he was a sinner and couldn’t keep God’s laws the way he should. All of us are. If we ask God to forgive our sins and trust Him as our savior, God sees us as perfect like Jesus, because He paid for our sins on the cross.

### Repeat the Memory Verse

# APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

## Do the Activities Together

### Enemies or Friends?

#### Activity 1

Finish each sentence by drawing a line to the correct ending.

**ACTIVITY CENTER**

**Activity 1**  
**ENEMIES OR FRIENDS?**

Finish each sentence by drawing a line to the correct ending.

1. A hurt man was \_\_\_\_\_ by the side of the road.  
by the sea.
2. The hurt man was \_\_\_\_\_ a Samaritan.  
a Jew.
3. Jews and Samaritans were \_\_\_\_\_ friends.  
enemies.
4. The one man who helped \_\_\_\_\_ a Jew.  
the hurt man was \_\_\_\_\_ a Samaritan.
5. The Samaritan \_\_\_\_\_ cleaned the man's cuts.  
passed by on the other side of the road.
6. The Samaritan \_\_\_\_\_ took the man to his house.  
took the man to an inn.
7. The Samaritan \_\_\_\_\_ paid the innkeeper to care for the hurt man.  
sent the hurt man a bill.
8. Who was a neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ The man who ignored him.  
to the hurting man? \_\_\_\_\_ The man who showed mercy.
9. Jesus taught we should \_\_\_\_\_ people who need help.  
be a neighbor to \_\_\_\_\_ no one.
10. We are \_\_\_\_\_ always kind and good.  
\_\_\_\_\_ not always kind and good.
11. We need \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness for our sin.  
\_\_\_\_\_ to forget about our neighbors.

Read the story with the correct answers. Then retell the story in your own words.

## Word Code

### Activity 2

Use the answer key to decode the message.

**Activity 2**  
**WORD CODE**

A = U	B = ▲	H = ♥	M = ⊕	P = ⚡	U = ↑
B = ⊗	F = ☞	I = ☼	N = ☒	R = ☞	V = ✱
D = ★	G = ◆	L =	O = ∩	T = ▲	Y = ○

Do our neighbor

no harm, but help

and befriend him

in every need

# CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

## Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

## **Additional Teaching Options**

**Hymns and Songs:**

**Additional activities for a multi-age class:**