

Sunday February 25, 2024



**Passage:**

**Good Samaritan**

Luke 10:25-37

**Bottom Line:**

Be Kind to People Who Are Different From You

**Memory Verse:**

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud, be gentle and patient.  
Colossians 3:12

**Monthly Virtue:**

Kindness - Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

**Basic Truth:**

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**Children's Moment:**

**Crunchy Chips**

**Chris**

Pull out a bag of chips and talk about how much you love how crunchy and tasty they are. But someone wasn't careful with the chips and was hard on them. Squeeze the bag and crush them. Now someone said something mean, let a kid crunch them some more. Now someone gossiped about them, have another kid crunch them, keep going until the bag is crushed. Explain that even though the bag still looks the same on the outside, the inside is really hurt from what happened to it. Our words can be just like this. We can hurt others around us, even though they look the same on the outside, we have hurt them on the inside. Today we will learn in our lesson about showing kindness to people even though they are different than us.

**Lesson:**

**Good Samaritan**

"Wow—can you believe it's already the end of the month? We've been talking about how we can 'gear up' with kindness.

*"Raise your hand if you need some help sometimes showing kindness. (Raise your hand.) Me too. I'm so glad to know I don't have to do it alone. God is always there to help, and God is the One who shows us what real kindness is in the first place!"*

*"Remember:*

*"Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.*

*"Each person is valuable and special, because each person is made in the image of God. We should show others how much they matter with our words and actions. We should be kind to them! Turn to the person next to you and tell them, 'You are valuable.' (Pause for response.) Now turn to the person behind you and tell them, 'God loves you.' (Pause for response.)"*

Setting up the story

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! We've had a great month here at [name of your environment] talking about kindness . . . and today, we have another story of kindness to look at from the Bible. (Hold up Bible.)

"This is a story that Jesus Himself told. Jesus often told stories as examples to help people learn something important about God. Those stories were called parables.

“One day, while Jesus was teaching, a religious expert stood up to ask Him a question. Here’s what the law expert said to Jesus.

Open the Bible to Luke 10:25-28 (NirV) and read.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” Jesus replied. “How do you understand it?”

He answered, “‘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.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do that, and you will live.” (NirV)

“But that’s not all. The expert wanted to make himself look super-smart, so he asked Jesus:

Open the Bible to Luke 10:29 (NirV) and read.

“And who is my neighbor?” (NirV)

“Do you know how Jesus answered? (Pause for response.) He told a story.

robbers attack

STORYTELLER: “Jesus’ story began with a man who was walking from the city of Jerusalem to the city of Jericho . . .

*“ . . . when suddenly . . . can you say ‘DUN-DUN-DUN’?”*

AUDIENCE: *“DUN-DUN-DUN!”*

STORYTELLER: *“Suddenly, robbers attacked him!*

*“Say, (tough guy voice) ‘Give us all your money!’”*

AUDIENCE: *(Tough guy voice) “Give us all your money!”*

STORYTELLER: *“The robbers took everything the man had and beat him up.*

*“Ouch—that’s rough! The robbers left this poor man on the side of the road, badly injured.”*

the priest and levite

STORYTELLER: “But then, a priest came walking down the road.

“This was a religious man who followed God. Surely, he would stop and help! But no. The priest crossed to the other side of the street and walked on by.

*“Say: ‘Wah, Wah, wah.’” (This should sound like a “sad trombone.”)*

AUDIENCE: *“Wah, wah, wah.”*

STORYTELLER: *“Then, another man walked by.*

*“This was a Levite—another man who worshipped God. Do you think he helped? (Pause for response.) He did not. He walked right on by.*

*“Say: ‘Wah, Wah, wah.’”*

AUDIENCE: "Wah, wah, wah."

STORYTELLER: "This poor injured man! Surely SOMEONE would stop and help him?!"

The samaritan

STORYTELLER: "Well, the next person who came by was a Samaritan.

"This would have surprised the people listening to Jesus' story . . . because at that time, everyone knew that Jewish people and Samaritans didn't get along. The people wouldn't have expected a Samaritan to stop and help the man who was injured.

"The Samaritan saw the injured man . . . and he stopped to help! Say: 'Woo-HOO!'"

AUDIENCE: "Woo-HOO!"

STORYTELLER: "The Samaritan put medicine on the man's wounds and wrapped them in clean bandages. Then the Samaritan put the man on his own donkey.

"Say: 'HEE-HAW!'"

AUDIENCE: "HEE-HAW!"

STORYTELLER: "The Samaritan took the injured man to an inn. The next day, when he had to leave, he even paid two silver coins to the innkeeper and asked him to continue to take care of the injured man. Let me hear those two coins—say: 'Clink, clink!'"

AUDIENCE: "Clink, clink!"

STORYTELLER: "The Samaritan even promised the innkeeper that he would pay anything extra when he came back."

wrapping up THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Remember, Jesus was telling this story to the law expert who had asked: 'Who is my neighbor?' Jesus spoke directly to the law expert and asked him a question:

*Open the Bible to Luke 10:36 (NirV) and read.*

*"Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?" (NirV)*

"You tell me. Who was a neighbor to the hurt man? Was it the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan? (Pause for response.) Definitely the Samaritan.

"Jesus told the law expert:

Open the Bible to Luke 10:37 (NirV) and read.

"Go and do as he did." (NirV)

"Jesus made it really clear in the story He told that day. A neighbor isn't just someone who lives close to you, who looks like you, or who has the same thoughts and opinions as you. A neighbor is ANYONE who needs our help or kindness.

"So this is a great challenge for us today. It's a big part of kindness.

*[Bottom Line] "Be kind to people who are different from you.*

*"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."*

## PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, we are amazed by the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. It's easy for us to be kind to people who are a lot like us. But real kindness means that we should be kind to everyone—especially to people who may look, think, or act differently than we do. Help us to show Your love and kindness to everyone we meet. Help us to see the people in our lives who need a little extra kindness. We love You, and we pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen."

HOST: "Wow! Whenever I hear the story of the Good Samaritan, it always makes me stop and think about the way I treat people. Remember, Jesus told this story to a law expert who was trying to figure out exactly who his neighbor was. In other words, this person wanted to know WHO he had to be kind to, so that he WOULDN'T have to be kind to anyone else.

"But when Jesus told this story, He helped people see that EVERYONE we know is our neighbor. Everyone needs our love and kindness. So that gives us an important challenge:

*[Bottom Line] "Be kind to people who are different from you.*

*"Maybe it can be as easy as just listening to people who think differently from us. We don't have to agree with them, but even listening and not arguing is a way to show kindness.*

*"Maybe it could mean that we hang out with a kid who acts differently from us. We can be friendly and invite them to join our group, even if we've never spoken to them before.*

*"Maybe we could just start asking questions. That's a great way to show someone you care about them—about who they are, where they're from, and why they think the way they think.*

*"It feels good when someone shows that kind of kindness to us, doesn't it? So let's be like the Samaritan in the story. Let's show others that they're valuable by the way we speak and act. Let's [Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated . . . by choosing to be kind.*

*"I'm so glad that we're 'gearing up' with all these kindness skills this month. You can head to Small Group now and talk about how you can [Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you."*

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## Activity

### Kindness Charades

Play a game of charades with kindness actions to act out. Split kids in two teams, have one player from each team grab an action card to act out. They will act out the same action. Whichever team guesses it first gets the point.

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## Small Group

### Leaves on Tree of Kindness

We have made leaves now for how other people have shown us kindness and how we can show kindness to family. Today, we will make leaves for how we can show kindness to people that are different than us.

#### Instruction:

Pass out green leaves with markers and let kids write or draw ways that we can show kindness to others. When they are done, tape them to the tree on the wall.

### Memory Verse

Quiz kids and see who knows the verse. Put a sticker on the kids verse card if they know it.

**Questions:**

Why did Jesus tell this story? (A man asked Jesus whom he should love—the story was Jesus' answer.)

Why do you think the man asked Jesus to explain who his neighbor was? (He wanted to find out whom he did and didn't have to love or whom he was required to love.)

Who did not treat the hurt man with love? (The Levite and the priest.)

What reasons do you think they might have given for passing by? (They may have said that their churchlike responsibilities were more important than helping; they might have been afraid that the robbers would come back; they might not have had enough money to get medical help for the man; etc.)

Why was it strange for the Samaritan to help? (The Samaritan was used to being hated by Jews—he might have felt he didn't need to be nice to the Jewish man.)

How did the Samaritan help the hurt man? (He put on medicine and bandages; he carried the man on his own donkey; he took the man to an inn where he paid for the man to stay until he was well.) You might add that the people listening to Jesus' story would have been amazed to hear of a Samaritan helping a Jewish person.

How did Jesus' story answer the first man's question? (It showed that anyone in need is our neighbor.)

How should we treat others? (We should treat them the way we want to be treated; we should love even people we don't like.)