

Being Good Neighbors

Dear Facilitator: This week we will be discussing how we can become good neighbors and why God asks us to be good neighbors.

The story for tonight's lesson is found in Luke 10:25-37.

We often ask ourselves how we decide who are neighbors are and what we should do to show them love. Today we want to go a little deeper and discover that it's not about deciding who our neighbors are, but rather how we become the kind of neighbor that God wants us to be. As we learn to become good neighbors, we can bring peace to our communities and be an agent of change for good in our neighborhoods. Sometimes we are the ones who need the "neighboring," and it's important to let others show God's love to us; however, we always have something we can give others as well. Participants will come up with real-life stories to help them better understand what actions and sacrifices they can make to become good neighbors.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:

1. Identify their neighbors.
2. Explain how they can become good neighbors.
3. Explain why they should be good neighbors.

During the past few lessons, we have made commitment statements. This week's commitment statement is: I will obey God's commands to be a good neighbor by having compassion for others and serving them.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God's love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings

Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing your family.

Last week we spent time learning about how to prepare for the future.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Do:** Activity

1. Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
2. Stand in the center of the circle and ask one person in the group: Do you love your neighbor?
3. The person you ask can give either of two possible responses: 1) "Yes" and then the youth on his/her right and left must switch seats OR 2) "No, but I love everyone who..." has brown hair, is wearing blue, has been water skiing, name starts with K, etc.
4. Everyone who meets the characteristic must get up and change seats to a new seat.
5. While people are changing seats, the person in the center of the circle tries to grab one of the empty chairs.
6. Whoever is left without a seat gets to repeat the process of asking someone in the circle: Do you love your neighbor?

Optional Debrief



Ask:

- What types of people do you find easy to love? Difficult to love?
- What are some ways that people show their love toward others?

Conclusion

The Scripture tells us that others will know we are Christians by our love. We are told to love not only those people we can get along with but to also love our enemies.

In today's session, our teaching objectives are to:

1. Identify your neighbors.
2. Explain how you can become a good neighbor.
3. Explain why you should be a good neighbor.

This week's commitment statement is: I will obey God's commands to be a good neighbor by having compassion for others and serving them.



Say: Today we are going to talk about being good neighbors. In the Bible, a lawyer who knew the Scripture and law of Israel once asked Jesus a question: "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responded with a story:

Luke 10:29-37:

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man

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was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

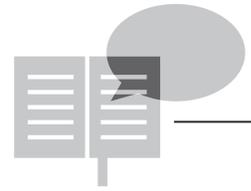
Family & Table Talk 20 minutes



Say: As you enjoy your dinner, talk about the following questions at your table.

1. In the story, what did the Good Samaritan do?
2. What are some ways that people have been good neighbors to you?
3. What are some ways that you have been a good neighbor to others?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.



Scripture SUPPORT

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Exodus 22:26

If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset.

Leviticus 19:16

Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 25:14

If you sell land to any of your own people or buy land from them, do not take advantage of each other.

Deuteronomy 5:20

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Matthew 19:19

Honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:33

To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Romans 13:8

[Love Fulfills God’s Requirements] Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:9

The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Peter 2:12

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

40 minutes

Parent Training

Engaging The World

BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS

How was your discussion? Today our hope is that we will understand the story of the Good Samaritan a little better, and consider not only who is our neighbor, as the lawyer asked, but also what kind of a neighbors we are.

Notice that the lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?” What he really wanted to know is, “Who am I responsible for and what is required to meet the expectations?” Like many of us, the lawyer was trying to justify caring for neighbors who were just like him. Jesus responded by telling a story that redefined the question, “Who is my neighbor?” (Not in terms of who is close to us but in terms of who was in need.) The real question is not, “Who is my neighbor?” It is, “Who is in need and how can I be a neighbor to them?” Sometimes we are the ones in need, and we need others to be a good neighbor to us, too.

DISCUSS

- Does anyone have an example of a time when they needed help and others they didn’t expect to help were right there to offer care and support?
- What surprised you about that help?

Jesus ends the parable of the Good Samaritan by asking the lawyer a different question: “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” Instead of passively deciding who is or who isn’t our neighbor, Jesus is teaching us that being a neighbor involves action, not passivity.

Being neighborly and serving others will cost us something and require us to take risks.

DISCUSS

- What costs and risks are there with being neighborly?

Being neighborly involves bringing peace to our neighbors and being agents of redemption to restore our neighborhoods and communities to God's original intent. Since the fall or when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, Satan has worked to take over and destroy our families, neighborhoods, and communities. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be an influence and force for good in this redemptive work in our neighborhoods. Jesus calls us to be the kind of neighbor who owns the responsibility to bring peace and restoration to our communities. We can no longer say that this is someone else's responsibility. As we work to restore our communities, we will also have opportunities to share the gospel and love of Christ with our neighbors. This is what Jesus is asking us to do.

Have participants get into groups of two to four and make up a "Good Samaritan" story from their own neighborhoods and experiences. After they discuss their story in a few minutes, ask for one to two volunteers to share.

1. Where would your story take place and what would it be about?
2. Who would be the characters in your story?
The priest, Levite, Good Samaritan, wounded man?
3. What needs are there and how will they be met in this story?

Sometimes, when we see someone in need, we hesitate to help because we are afraid that we won't be able to help that person, that our words may not mean much, or that we don't have much to offer.

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DISCUSS

As we think about your examples and stories, how could we be good neighbors?

- What needs do you see right around you?
- What does a good neighbor look like?
A bad neighbor?
- What do you have to offer to help others?
- What actions and sacrifices could you make to be a neighbor to others?
- What could you commit to do in the next month to be a good neighbor?

As we close this evening, we invite you to think about what kind of neighbor you want to be and why. You may be the one who needs the compassion and care right now, but even as God wants to meet our needs through others, He invites us to look around and care for others who are also in need.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

You should be able to:

1. Identify your neighbors.
2. Explain how you can become a good neighbor.
3. Explain why you should be a good neighbor.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Engaging The World

BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS

Objectives

- Help children be aware of what the Bible says about being a good neighbor.
- Help children identify their neighbors.
- Help children be aware of why they should be good neighbors.
- Help children be aware of how they can be good neighbors.

In the Bible, Jesus makes it clear to us that we are to love our neighbors. Luke 10:25-37 tells us this story to prove the point:

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'^[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b]"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put

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the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ *The next day he took out two denari^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

³⁷ *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."*

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Loving your neighbor was so important to Jesus that He said it was the second most important commandment. In Mark 12:29-31, He says, "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." In Romans 15:2, we are instructed, "Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up." Jesus tells us that a good neighbor is concerned about the well-being of others and are there to encourage them and lift them up when times get tough. Good neighbors are also willing to share their resources when needed.

A good neighbor shows respect, compassion, mercy, and the love of God toward their fellow man. In Galatians 6:2, it says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." It is true that we are our brother's keeper! God intends for us to look out for one another. In James 2:15-17, Jesus says to us, "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

For a child, being a good neighbor can be much simpler than that. A friendly hello and a smile can help a person feel good. So, keep a pocket full of smiles handy, and be ready to give them out generously. You can be a good neighbor by showing respect for your neighbor's yard or property. Your neighbor will also appreciate it if you keep your noise level down. You could help your neighbor carry in their groceries, shovel their walkway, or pick up any litter in their yard. We are Jesus's eyes, ears, voice, hands, and feet.

What matters most to God is that we love Him and prove we are His children by the love that we show to others on His behalf. In John 15:12, Jesus says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." There is a quote that says, "The happiest people I know are people who don't even think about being happy. They just think about being good neighbors, good people. And then happiness sort of sneaks in the back window while they are busy doing good." Let that be you!

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about what the Bible says about the importance of being a good neighbor.
- Lead children in a discussion about who their neighbors are.
- Lead children in a discussion about what it means to be a good neighbor.



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Technology to show video

“Random Acts of Kindness Calendar” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

https://youtu.be/nMW_ZygBGhE

“Excelsior Primary School students share Random Acts of Kindness”

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- After viewing the video, discuss briefly what the Bible says about loving your neighbor. (Use information from video and lesson.) Then tell the children that random acts of kindness are a way that they can bless their neighbors (friends, neighbors, parents, siblings, teachers, or anyone who is in their life.) Let children know that a random act of kindness doesn’t have to cost anything. It can be as simple as smiling at someone or writing them a kind note.
- Next, have the children work in a group to come up with some simple, random acts of kindness they can do. List them on the easel or white board.
- Finally, have the children write one act of kindness that they will do for someone each day on their “Random Acts of Kindness Calendar.” For instance, they may write on one Monday square, “Compliment my friend.” On a Tuesday square, “Pick up trash on the playground” or “Write a thank you note to my teacher or friend.” They can do the same act repeatedly or a variety of acts. Whatever they write, they should do what they say they are going to do. You can check back on a later date to see how they are doing with loving their neighbor through random acts of kindness.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Technology to show video

“Ways to Love My Neighbor” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/jMLF5BDXJOk>

“Love Your Neighbor as Yourself”

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

- After viewing video, discuss briefly what the Bible says about loving your neighbor. (Use information from video and lesson.)
- Next, have children work in pairs to come up with acts of kindness that they can do to show the love of God to their neighbor (friend, parent, sibling, neighbor, teacher, or anyone else). Have them write their answers on their “Ways to Love My Neighbor” worksheet. Then have the pairs share their ideas with the group.



Scripture SUPPORT

Luke 10:25-37

The story about the Good Samaritan teaches us about what it means to be a good neighbor.

Mark 12:30

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mark 12:31

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 15:2

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

James 2:15-17

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?



CHALLENGE QUESTION

DO I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS I LOVE MYSELF?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>I practice random acts of kindness to show the love of God to my neighbors.</i>

5 WAYS TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR

I WILL:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
☆	Inspiration	♡			☆	
⚙️			☆		⚙️	♡
				♡		Young + Power