

## STORY 72

# Who Is My Neighbor?

## LUKE 10

### BEFORE THE LESSON

- *Read Luke 10.*
- *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

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### THE BIG PICTURE

*Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}*

Remember how Jesus's disciples were upset that children were coming to Jesus? They thought Jesus was too busy, too important, and too powerful to waste his precious time with children. They misunderstood the King and his kingdom, so Jesus corrected them. The disciples weren't the only ones who misunderstood the King and his kingdom. They weren't the only ones Jesus needed to correct. There was also another group. But this second group was trickier and meaner than the disciples. They didn't like Jesus; they wanted him dead. Sometimes they'd ask him questions to get him into trouble. In today's lesson, they ask him one of those trick questions. But Jesus isn't tricked. Instead, he uses their question to correct their wrong views about his kingdom.

1  
Read

2  
Teach

## TELL THE STORY

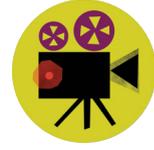
Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}



Read the  
Bible passage  
together



Read from  
*The Biggest Story*  
Bible Storybook



Play *The*  
*Biggest Story*  
video

## TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

**Big Truth**  
Loving God  
means loving  
our neighbors,  
which involves  
showing mercy  
to those in need.

One day “a lawyer” tried to test Jesus. He asked a trick question, trying to trip Jesus up. This lawyer was not a lawyer in the way we talk about lawyers. He was an expert in the *law* of Moses. The lawyer asked, “What do I have to do to live forever?” (see Luke 10:25). This is a good question—a question everyone should ask, because everyone will one day die. Some people might have asked that important question because they wanted an answer. However, the Bible tells us that this man asked it to test Jesus, hoping it would show that Jesus didn’t know the law as well as the lawyer did.

But Jesus (who was far wiser than this lawyer) answered his question with another question, “How does the Bible answer your question?” (see 10:26). The man replied, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself” (10:27). “That’s right,” said Jesus. “If you perfectly love God and love your neighbor you will live forever.” Ah, Jesus was now testing him! Do you think this lawyer could perfectly love God and his neighbor? Of course not. Only God loves like that. At this point the lawyer decided to ask Jesus a follow-up question, “And who is my neighbor?” (10:29). He wanted Jesus to answer the question how he himself would answer it. “My neighbors,” the man thought, “are people like me and people I like.” Then Jesus shared this shocking story to correct him and show him that our neighbors include anyone in need. He told this *Jewish* religious leader the parable of the good *Samaritan*.

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, some robbers beat him up, stole all he had, and left him on the road to die. Soon after, a

priest saw him. But instead of helping, he walked right by him. Then, a Levite passed by, and did the same thing. Finally, a Samaritan saw him. And do you know what he did? Even though Samaritans and Jews didn't like each other, this Samaritan had compassion on this helpless man. He poured oil and wine on his wounds (to clean them), wrapped him in his own clothing, and brought him to an inn. The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper money and said, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back" (10:35).

After the parable, Jesus asked, "Which man loved his neighbor?" The answer was obvious. "The one who showed him mercy" (10:37), the lawyer admitted. "Right," Jesus said, "Now go and do the same."

### GOSPEL CONNECTION

*Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher. {5 minutes}*

Think again about what the Samaritan did in the parable, and then think about what Jesus has done for us. Like the Samaritan, Jesus came to the rescue. The Samaritan just crossed the road to do so; Jesus came all the way from heaven! The man who was beaten was rescued from dying; we were already dead in our sins when Jesus came for us. It cost the Samaritan some money to restore the dying man back to life; it cost Jesus his very life to restore our relationship with God. Jesus suffered for us. Jesus bled for us. Jesus died for us.

We are to follow the example of the good Samaritan, but more importantly we are to follow Jesus, our always good Savior. The right answer to the lawyer's first question ("What do I have to do to live forever?") is to follow Jesus—the only person to ever love God and neighbor perfectly.

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### DISCUSS THE STORY

*Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}*

- 1. QUESTION:** What question did the lawyer ask Jesus to test him? How did Jesus respond? Even though the lawyer wanted to test Jesus, how did Jesus test that man's heart? How does his story test your heart?

**TAKEAWAY:** People sought to test Jesus, but it is Jesus who tests our hearts.

3

Engage

**Memory Verse**  
You shall 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 your  
neighbor as  
yourself.

LUKE 10:27

2. **QUESTION:** How did the man answer Jesus’s question about how to summarize the law? What happens if you perfectly love God and your neighbor? What keeps us from doing that? Who is the only person who can do that?

**TAKEAWAY:** The whole law is summed up by loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself, and only Jesus can do that perfectly.

3. **QUESTION:** Who were the three men who saw the wounded man on the road to Jericho? Which one helped the man? Why is that surprising? In what ways is Jesus the Great Samaritan?

**TAKEAWAY:** The parable of the good Samaritan reminds us that Jesus came to save his enemies; he is the Great Samaritan.

4. **QUESTION:** What’s the final question that Jesus asked the lawyer? What was his answer? The whole story was to answer the question “Who is my neighbor?” So what is the answer? If we love God and want to follow Jesus, what must we go and do?

**TAKEAWAY:** Loving God means loving our neighbors, including our enemies.

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## ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from [TheBiggestStory.com](http://TheBiggestStory.com), or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

### Option 1: TP Bandage Relay

*Supply List: toilet paper (one roll per team)*

*Before Class: Gather supplies.*

Divide children into teams of three to four, and give each team a roll of toilet paper. Have each team choose one child to be “hurt.” On “Go” each team must wrap the hurt person with toilet paper. The first team to use the entire roll of toilet paper wins. Remind children that Jesus told a story about a hurt man who was helped by an unlikely good neighbor.

## Option 2: Bandage Tag

*Supply List: bag of bandages*

*Before Class: Gather supplies.*

Choose one child to be “It” and one to be the “good Samaritan.” Give the good Samaritan a bag of bandages. Begin a game of tag. If a child is tagged, she must freeze until the good Samaritan comes and puts a bandage on her hand. Once she has a bandage, she can rejoin the game. If a child is tagged a second time, she must remain frozen because each person can only be saved once per game. After a few minutes, restart the game with a new “It” and “good Samaritan.”

3rd–5th

## Option 1: Bandage Relay

*Supply List: bandages, table*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Set a table on the opposite side of the starting line, and spread out bandages on the table.*

Divide children into teams of five to six. Have each team choose one child to be “hurt,” who will then stand in front of the bandage table directly opposite from his team. On “Go” have the first person on each team skip down to the bandage table, take a bandage, stick the bandage somewhere on his team’s “hurt” person, and skip back to tag the next person in line, who will repeat the process. After five minutes, the team that has placed the most bandages on its “hurt” person wins. Remind children that one way to love our neighbors is by helping people when they are hurt.

## Option 2: I Love My Neighbor!

*Supply List: chairs*

*Before Class: Set chairs in a circle (one less than the number of children playing).*

Choose one child to stand in the middle of the circle, and have the rest sit in chairs. The person in the middle says, “I love my neighbor, especially the ones who . . .” (the child then calls out a characteristic like “are wearing blue,” “have a sister,” or “like pizza”). If the statement is true of a child, he or she must stand

and find a new place to sit. While those children are moving to a new seat, the person in the middle also tries to get a chair. The child who does not get a chair is the new person in the middle. Continue play for a predetermined time, ensuring that all children get to participate. Remind children that Jesus wants us to love our neighbors.

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## CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

### Option 1: Sign Language “I Love You”

*Supply List: construction paper, pencils, scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Make a sample craft.*

Set supplies on tables. Demonstrate how to say “I love you” with your hand in sign language. Have children take a piece of construction paper and trace around one of their hands with their fingers spread out. Children should then cut out their traced hand and glue the middle and ring fingers down to say “I love you” in sign language. Have children write Luke 10:27 on the front of the handprint. Remind children that when we love God, we want to love others like Jesus did!

### Option 2: “Love One Another” Beaded Craft

*Supply List: cardstock, pipe cleaners, string, scissors, tape, pony beads*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut 6-inch pieces of string. On cardstock, print the words “Love One Another” (one per child). Make a sample craft.*

Set copies and supplies on tables. Have children thread pony beads onto a pipe cleaner, leaving 1 inch unbeaded at each end. Then they can shape the pipe cleaner into a heart, twisting the unbeaded ends to secure. Have them cut out the words “Love One Another” and attach them to the back of the heart with tape. Last, they should tie a piece of string to the top for hanging.

**Option 1: Heart Chain**

*Supply List: construction paper, paper, scissors, glue sticks*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. Cut 2-inch-wide strips of construction paper (eleven per child). Make copies of a paper that has five hearts, with each heart containing one word from the phrase “I Can Love My Neighbor” (one per child). Make a sample craft.*

Set strips, heart papers, and remaining supplies on tables. Have children use the paper strips and glue to make a paper chain with eleven links. Have them cut out the hearts and glue them on every other link so the paper chain reads “I Can Love My Neighbor.” Remind children that when we show love and mercy to others, we are like Jesus.

**Option 2: Love Dangler**

*Supply List: cardstock, string, red paper, scissors, glue sticks, colored pencils, tape*

*Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, print simple pictures of a cross, a heart, and a hand. On red paper, print three small hearts that say “Love God,” “Love others,” and “Serve others.” Cut 15-inch pieces of string. Make a sample craft.*

Set copies and supplies on tables. Instruct children to color and cut out the cross, heart, and hand. Children should then cut out the three hearts and glue the “Love God” heart to the cross, the “Love others” heart to the heart, and the “Serve others” heart to the hand. Have children line up the shapes facedown with space in between them, and then they can tape a piece of string to the backs of the shapes so they will hang vertically. Leave extra string at the top to form a loop for hanging. Remind children that when we love God, we will love and serve others.



Visit [TheBiggestStory.com](https://TheBiggestStory.com) for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.