



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 10:27](#)

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

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

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 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

LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: assorted blocks, toy cars

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.



10:45 Service

Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for being with us today. We are so excited to learn more about You. Please help us listen closely as the Holy Spirit guides us in understanding Your Word. Show us how we can share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Beginner Bible p379

The Good Samaritan

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

—Luke 10:27a

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.

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?



Faith

LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Active Game: Bandage on Me

In the story today, the Samaritan man helped the man who was hurt. How did he help? Allow the kids to respond. **He put bandages and medicine on the hurt man's body and took him to an inn to get help. Let's pretend to put bandages on different parts of our body. I'll call out the body part, and you can pretend to put a bandage on that spot.** As you call out the body parts, you'll want to act out putting a bandage on yourself so the kids can copy you and know what to do.

Call out the following body parts:

elbow	foot
head	shoulder
knee	hand
toes	stomach
mouth	ear



10:45 Service

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for helping us show compassion to others.

If you want, you can have the kids place their hands on the Compassion Wall you just completed as you pray.

God, thank You for teaching us today. Thank You for showing us compassion. Please help us show compassion to others this week, even if it is difficult. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you find ways to be kind and show compassion to others so they may see God's love. God loves you and shows compassion to you.

Closing Game: Path of Compassion

SUPPLIES: construction paper (6 colors, 2 sheets of each color), bowl, scissors (prep only)

Ahead of time, cut one sheet of each color of construction paper in half. Write the following phrases on six of the half sheets (and leave the other six blank):

1. Smile at someone.
2. Take someone's favorite toy away.
3. Hold the door open for someone.
4. Ignore a person sitting alone.
5. Make cookies for a neighbor.
6. Laugh when a friend falls.

Spread the 12 pieces of paper in a path around the room. Mix the blank pieces with the pieces with words. To make the "draw" cards for the path, cut the other sheets of construction paper into smaller rectangles, mix them up, and place them in a bowl.

Gather kids together and explain the rules of the game.

When it's your turn, draw a paper from the bowl and say the color of the paper. You will go to a piece of paper that is that color and stand on it. If there is something written on it, I will read it to you. If it has an example of compassion, put your hands on your heart and say, "Jesus teaches us to show compassion!" If it doesn't have an example of compassion, just stand quietly.

The kids will complete the activity one or two at a time. If you have a large group, you can add more papers. Help kids through the game by reading the different spaces and helping them determine whether the statement is an example of showing compassion.

10:45 Service