



## 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.*

#### Curiosity Activity: Compassion Ripples

**SUPPLIES:** shoebox-size clear plastic container, water, objects of various sizes and weights (bead, fake flower, leaf, coin, rock, toy bug, etc.)

Fill a low and wide container halfway with water. Set the various objects to the side of the water.

**Check out my container of water! Do you see how still it is? I wonder what will happen when I drop one of these objects in the water. What do you think will happen?** Allow kids to respond. **Let's test it out.** Drop the objects in the water one at a time. Comment on the ripples and impact each object makes on the water.

**That was fun! Each one of these objects caused ripples in the water. That makes me think of our actions, or what we do each day. Small actions, such as smiling at someone, can still cause a ripple of kindness or compassion. Your smile can brighten someone else's day. Then maybe that person will say something encouraging to another person. Bigger actions like helping someone who is hurt can also cause a ripple of kindness. Both big and small actions can affect others, just like both big and small objects cause ripples.**

**What are some kind actions you can think of?** Allow kids to respond. **Those are some great answers! Who do you think you can be kind to?** Allow kids to respond. **Today, we're going to learn about a man's kind actions that showed he had compassion for his neighbor. We'll learn that Jesus teaches us to show compassion!**



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

**SUPPLIES:** bandages (1 per kid), bowl (1 per team)

Divide your group into two teams. Set the bandages in two piles on one side of the room and have the teams stand on the opposite side of the room. Place bowls next to the teams.

**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 wounds and took him to an inn to get help. Let's pretend to put bandages on different parts of our bodies. I'll call out the body part, and you will run to the other side of the room and get a bandage. You'll hold it on the body part that I call out, then run and put your bandage back into the bowl on your side.**

Call out the following body parts:

elbow	toes
head	mouth
foot	hand
shoulder	stomach
knee	ear

**Make It Inclusive!** For kids with physical limitations, let them put bandages on the hurt man on the Coloring Sheet instead of running or putting bandages on themselves.

**This reminds us of how the good Samaritan helped the hurt man. We can show compassion to others around us too. If you have a friend who falls and is hurt, you can help him yourself if you are able or you can get a grownup who can help. This is one great way to show compassion! What is another way?** Allow kids to respond.



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.*

#### Responding in Worship: Compassion Wall

**SUPPLIES:** butcher paper, markers, tape, large adhesive bandages (at least 2 per kid, optional)

Before kids arrive, draw two large hearts on the butcher paper with enough room for kids to write and draw inside the hearts.

**The Samaritan saw the man who was hurt, and he showed compassion to him. Who shows compassion to you?** Allow the kids to respond. Invite the kids to write a person's name (or an initial to represent the name) inside one of the hearts. If providing adhesive bandages, the kids can write that person's name or initial on the bandage and attach it to the butcher paper.

**What are some ways these people show compassion?** Invite the kids to write or draw their answers inside the heart with the names.

**God is so good to give us people who show us compassion. He can help us to show compassion to others too!**

**Let's think of people we can show compassion to this week.** Invite the kids to write a person's name (or an initial to represent the name) inside the other heart. If providing adhesive bandages, the kids can write that person's name or initial on the bandage and attach it to the butcher paper.

**How can we show compassion to these people?** Invite the kids to write or draw their answers inside the second heart. Hang the Compassion Wall somewhere prominent in your room so the kids can see the names and ideas they shared.

## 10:45 Service

### 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.

## 10:45 Service