

"We Give Because We Love"

Bible Passage: Luke 10:30-37

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:11

What you'll need:

Bible
Verse slides
Paper hearts
Worship songs

Teacher Tip: *In this week's lesson, we'll be focusing on the real motivation for our generosity: LOVE. In week one, we began with John 3:16, "For God so LOVED...He GAVE." The two go hand-in-hand. And this doesn't mean that we only give to people who we "like." As illustrated in the story of the Good Samaritan, we are challenged to be generous to all, those we know and those who we don't, those who are our friends and those who are our enemies. The real message of today's teaching centers on our call to show love to everyone. If we succeed in showing love to all, we will be compelled to be generous to all. As you prepare to teach this lesson, ask yourself, "am I showing love to everyone I encounter and therefore being generous?" May you be challenged as you prepare and teach this lesson.*

Large Group:

Teacher Tip: *Open large group time by welcoming the kids. Large group should be a time of both fun and learning. As the teacher, you set the tone for the whole experience. Be sure to exude excitement as you open the large group time.*

Say: **“Let’s review our Memory Verse!”** (verse on screen) **“Let’s say it together...”**

MEMORY VERSE: *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

2 Corinthians 9:1

“BREAK THE ICE”

Teacher Tip: *“Break the Ice” is a great way to build community among your kids. Encourage them to find three or four other kids and ask them the following question. Once a few minutes have passed, and if time permits, spend a few moments dialoguing with the group about their answers.*

“Break the Ice” Question

Is it easier to give to someone you like or someone you don’t like? Why?

Worship Song: “Love the Lord”

(🎧) *(Tech cue worship video)*

Large Group Lesson: “We Give Because We Love”

Teacher’s Tip: *Set up the verse slides and have your Bible handy*

For the last few weeks, we’ve been focusing on generosity. We began by talking about how we should be generous because God is generous. He gave us His one and only Son to be our Savior and then He gave us His Holy Spirit. Then the following week we talked about how God want us to give up anything that we’re putting our trust in more than Him; God wants us to serve Him with our whole hearts. Then last week we talked about the very generous people of the Macedonian church and how they gave joyfully, not because they were rich and had much to give, but because they had a generous spirit. We learned that when we give up things that we really value, we’re showing our faith in God.

Today we’re going to read together another great story from God’s word. Jesus told this story to his followers and it’s found in Luke 10:30-37. (allow time for children to find it) **Let’s read it together.**

(🎧) (verses on the screen)

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins 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.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Wow, what an incredible story!

This man was a foreigner, a man from a country that many people didn’t like. So, when he was robbed and left for dead, he wasn’t likely to find many friends along

the road to help him. And we heard in the passage that the first two men that walked by, one a priest and the other a Levite, walked around the dying man and didn't offer to help him. Why do you think the first two men didn't help him? (allow children to respond)

What was different about the Samaritan man? (allow children to answer) **That's right! He was willing to help this poor man. He not only helped him, but he bandaged his wounds and took him to a safe place so that he could recover. Then he gave the innkeeper money to continue to take care of him after he left! What an amazing thing he did!**

Why do you think the Samaritan man was willing to help the dying man? (allow for responses) **He showed mercy and gave to the man because he had love and compassion for him! He didn't help him because they were old friends. In fact, we can assume that they had never even met before that day on the road. He didn't help him because they were from the same country. In fact, they were from two different countries and, in those days, that would've been enough reason to leave him there to die. So, the Good Samaritan gave to the dying man because he was loving and kind. Jesus shared the story with his followers as an example of how to show love to others, even people we don't know or don't like. God calls us to love everyone, even our enemies. And that's exactly what the Samaritan man did! God also calls us to give to others out of that love.**

How can we apply this to our lives? Do we have people in our lives that maybe we don't get along with? Sure, we all do! Maybe we know people at school that aren't nice to others or to us. How can we be like the Good Samaritan to others? We can start by showing love to everyone, not just our friends or people we get along with. When we show love to everyone, we're more open to giving to everyone. God often asks us to show kindness or give to people we might not really like. (Share a brief example from your own life about a time you gave to someone or showed love to someone you didn't like) **When we give to others, out of our love for God, we will be blessed.**

WHAT NOW?

Teacher Tip: *“What Now?” is an opportunity for the kids to reflect and respond to the teaching time. Spend as much or as little time as you need here.*

Today’s lesson is all about love. God wants us to love one another and if we do, we’ll give generously to others too! It all works together! Loving makes us giving! And giving brings us great joy, just like the Macedonian church we learned about last week. I’m so glad that our generous God has shown us in His word how we can be generous too!

As we respond today, let’s focus on the love of God. We’re reminded in John 3:16 that God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. God set the ultimate example of how love sparks giving. In fact, it’s impossible to love without giving.

Let’s take a few moments and quietly ask God to help us to love others more like He loves us. Ask God to reveal to you people in your life that you need to show more love to.

(allow a few moments for the kids to reflect)

Okay, there are some paper hearts near the prayer walls. If you feel led to, take one and write the names of some people that God might be asking you to show more love to. Maybe it’s your brother or sister. Or maybe it’s another kid at school who doesn’t have many friends. If you don’t want to write someone’s name, you might just write a prayer on the heart, asking God to help you to love others and to be more generous because of that love.

Take this time to focus on what God would have you to do and respond however you feel He is leading you.

PAPER HEART

(Cut out heart along the line)

