

COMMUNITY (SMALL GROUP)

LESSON 3: Who is my neighbor?

Objective: To help students see the broader picture of the importance of loving your neighbor. This can be done either with more knowledge of the Bible or with hands-on practical experience. Even though it takes selflessness to serve others, there is a joy and gratification that God fills us with when we do!



TIME: Varies depending on activity

GAME: If you are going to do a service project, there won't be time for a game other than who can spot or find the funnies or strangest thing while you are working. However, in a Bible study, I would recommend some kind of game where people work in pairs or teams (ie. 2 on 2 basketball or playing the game of Taboo)!

ACTIVITY:

Option 1: Service project

One of the best ways to teach students to care about their neighborhood and community is to serve it. Plan ahead of time a community service project for a specific person or organization in or close to the neighborhood.

Helping do house or yard work for a disabled or elderly person.

Helping clean up trash in and around the neighborhood.

Helping the city remove graffiti.

Doing clean up or yard work at a local school or community center.

NOTE:

1. Make sure you arrange to have a community member or the person you are sharing share with your group a bit of their personal story!

Make sure you coach your students ahead of time on how to act/talk while doing what they are about to do. Sometimes our students can get uncomfortable doing new things and do or say inappropriate things (speaking from experience).

Option 2: Bible Study.

Assign the following verse to one of your students or leaders to take turns reading. Make sure everyone has their own Bible and can read along. Start by finding the passage so that everyone can walk through the process of looking up verses. Before reading, go around the circle and ask each person to share:

What is your neighborhood like?

What do you love and hate about your neighbors?

Has anyone in your neighborhood or community ever helped you? Explain.

Have you ever done something to help someone in your neighborhood? Explain.

READ Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

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

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

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'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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

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

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. 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, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii 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."

SHARE:

- Retell what this story was about in your own words.
- What stood out to you the most about this passage and why?
- Have leader share context of this passage with the students.
- What do you think this passage means for us now?
- Go around the group and have each person share 1 takeaway from the passage!
- Share the name of 1 person whom you are going to be a better neighbor to this week & why.
- How do you think your neighborhood would change if everyone was a good neighbor?

