



## LESSON 65

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** We are to love everyone.

**Bible Character:** Jesus and a lawyer

**Scripture Reference:** Luke 10:25-37



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read through Luke 10:25-37. The greatest commandments are to love God and love others. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He has already shown us how to love others through His love for us by giving His life as a sacrifice for our sin. Jesus had compassion for us, and He wants us to have compassion for others. We can love others because Jesus first loved us.

Consider this quote:

*"In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun. It has more to do with acting than with feeling. The call to love is not so much a call to a certain state of feeling as it is to a quality of action."*  
- R.C. Sproul

As you teach the campers this week, challenge them to think of ways to love fellow students, neighbors, family, teachers and other people they come in contact with. We are not called to love just our family and friends, but we are called to be intentional in loving every person we come in contact with. This includes people we may consider enemies. How do you intentionally love the people that surround you? Do you view every situation or person you come in contact with as an opportunity to love? Do you find it difficult to love people? How has God helped you to love people, even when it has been difficult? Spend a few minutes in prayer, asking God to reveal how you struggle with loving others and to help you learn to love as He loves.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

## Who is Your Neighbor?

### Supplies:

Worksheet – “Who is Your Neighbor” side (1 per camper)

Hand out the worksheets and have campers turn to the “Who is Your Neighbor?” side. Have them draw pictures of people in their life who they see as neighbors. Ask questions about what they drew. For example: why did you choose these people; who are some people you didn’t choose; why not; do you think God calls us to love only the people we want to love, or does He call us to love everyone? Campers will use the other side of the worksheet in activities later in the lesson.



### **BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes**

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

### **The Bridge to Small Group**

Today we will learn more about love and what love is. We will examine how God wants us to love everyone, not just who we want to love. We also see how loving others can help them to come to know God.

### **Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes**

### **Getting Started**

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? How did the staff member with the dead fish treat the person who was looking for the Camp Director? (The staff member judged that person and did not love him/her well.) What did the staff member learn about loving others? (We are called to love everyone, even people who are different from us.)

Last week we talked about judging others. Who did we talk about? (A sinful woman.) Others were judging her, but Jesus said that was wrong. Why shouldn’t we judge others? (We are not in a position to judge others because Jesus is the only one who can judge.) As we see sin in others, we need to recognize our own sin and ask God for forgiveness instead of focusing on other’s sins. We can forgive others of their sin and show mercy because God has forgiven us.

Today we are going to go a bit further with this idea, and talk about how God wants us to love others. God wants us to forgive others and show mercy. God also tell us to love everyone around us.

Let’s begin reading the Bible in Luke 10 [NLT] to see what Jesus says about loving others:

### Luke 10:25-26

*25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"*

This person questioning Jesus was someone who had studied the Old Testament and knew the law that Moses shared in the books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus. How did Jesus respond to this man? (Allow responses.) Jesus answered this man with a question.

### Luke 10:27-28

*27 The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

*28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"*

What did the man do? (Allow responses.) The man quoted from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. Jesus agreed with his answer. Loving God and others is what God calls us to do. This is true in the New Testament as well. Let's read through some verses from the New Testament that show this to be true (These verses can be found on the worksheet for campers to follow along as you read.):

### John 13:34-35

*34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

### 1 Peter 3:8

*8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.*

### 1 John 4:7

*7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.*

### 1 John 4:11

*11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.*

What did you learn about love from these verses? (Allow responses.) The Bible talks a great deal about loving others. God has shown His love for us in giving Jesus as a sacrifice for our sin. We are to love God and others because of His love for us. How do we do this? What are ways we can love each other?

## How do I love? What is love?



The purpose is to identify what love is and how we love others.

### Supplies:

Valentine card (1 per bin)

Stuffed teddy bear (1 per bin)

Fake rose (1 per bin)

"Love is..." poster (1 per session)

Set of "Love Is" labels (1 set per session)

Teachers, pull out the Valentine card, the teddy bear, and the rose, and ask the campers if these are love. Hang the "Love Is..." poster and explain that you are going to read a passage from 1 Corinthians (below) to discover what love really is. Pass out the labels to your campers and let the campers stick the characteristics of love on the poster as they hear you read it.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. <sup>8</sup> Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

### Tie It Together



Love is much more than a feeling that you have. It's more than a Valentine's Day card, a teddy bear as a gift, or a rose. John 15:13 says, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus showed us exactly what love is. He gave His life for us. He gave Himself to be crucified so that we would not have to be punished for our sin. When you love someone you are willing to sacrifice for him or her. God calls us to consider others as more important than ourselves. This is how we love others.

**What are some ways that we can sacrifice for others?** (Brainstorm ideas with the campers and write them on the dry-erase board in your cabin. Some examples might be giving your friend your favorite pencil when he/she asks to borrow one; letting your brother/sister have the bigger piece of cake for dessert; allowing your friend to go before you in line; etc.)

Let's go back to our passage in Luke, and see how the conversation ended between Jesus and the man as they talk about whom we are to love. Do not forget that Jesus had just agreed that the man needed to love God and love his neighbor as himself.

### Luke 10:29

*29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

This passage says the man wanted to justify his actions. The NIV says, "But the man wanted to make himself look good. So he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" Have you ever asked questions in class or to your parents to try to look smart? (Allow responses.) You might have asked a question so that your teacher would like you, or so that your friends would be impressed with you. That's what this man was doing. The man did not have a humble heart in asking this question.

## Act It Out



The purpose is for the campers to better understand what it means to be a neighbor and love our neighbors as ourselves.

### Characters & Supplies:

- 1 Jewish man
- 2 bandits wearing blindfolds (2 per bin)
- 1 priest wearing cross necklace (1 per bin)
- 1 temple assistant wearing towel or fabric for turban (1 per bin)
- 1 Samaritan with strips of cloth/gauze for bandages (3 per bin)
- 1 Innkeeper

Ask for seven volunteers to act out the passage from Luke below. The camp counselor can narrate the story while the campers act it out. Repeat as desired for campers to play different roles. If you do not have enough campers, let campers play multiple parts to fill each role, switching out the props for each part.

### Luke 10:30-36

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

<sup>31</sup> “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

<sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ <sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

## Tie It Together



Who do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked? Who was not a neighbor? (Allow responses.) Read Luke 10:37:

### Luke 10:37

<sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

*Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”*

The first two people who passed the man, the priest and the Temple assistant, were Jewish. You would expect these people to stop and help the man that was hurt because he also was Jewish. These

two people would be considered “neighbors” or friends to this man. The Samaritans hated the Jews and the Jews hated the Samaritans. No one would have thought that a Samaritan would stop and help someone who was Jewish. The Samaritan sacrificed his time and money to help someone he did not know, and someone who was part of a group he was supposed to hate. He showed love to this man. God wants us to act like the Samaritan. Jesus tells the man who was questioning him to “go and do the same.”

## Loving Everyone



The purpose is to help the campers understand that they are to love everyone around them.

### Supplies:

Scenarios guide (1 per bin)

Set of signs – “Loving Your Neighbor” and “NOT Loving Your Neighbor” (1 set per bin)

Explain to the campers that you are going to read through some statements that might be ways to love your neighbor. Designate one corner of the room “Loving Your Neighbor” and the opposite corner “NOT Loving Your Neighbor” by hanging the signs. Tell them that if they think the situation shows how to love your neighbor, then they should go to the “Loving Your Neighbor” corner. If they do not think it shows how to your neighbor, then they should go to the “NOT Loving Your Neighbor” corner. Ask the campers to tell you how love is or is not being shown in the situation.

## Tie It Together



God calls us to love everyone. Sometimes it can be really hard to love others because it means putting the other person first. There might be times when you are busy doing something and you do not want to stop to help someone else, you do not agree with them, or you might just not want to obey your parents. By doing what you want instead of putting the other person first, you are choosing not to love that person. God calls us to love everyone. When we do not love others, we are not loving God. We should be willing to give up what we want to put others first, so that we can love them the way God calls us to love others.

## Go and Do as the Samaritan Did



The purpose is to give the campers ways they can go and do the same as the Samaritan

### Supplies:

Worksheet – “Go and Do” section (1 per camper)

In the space provided on the worksheet, have the campers draw pictures of how they can love those around them.

## Tie It Together



Loving others is not about liking someone because he or she is fun to hang out with. It is a willingness to give up what we want for them. Who is our perfect example of love? (Allow responses.)

Jesus. He died for us. We are called to love others by giving up what we want. Everyday we should put the people around us first so that we can love them as God loves us. Examine your heart to see how you respond in love to others. Do you choose to put others first and love them, or do you choose to put your wants above others? (Allow responses.) Let's think about the people in our lives, even those we may not like very much and are hard to love, and come up with ways that we can put those people first so that we can love them as God loves us.

We have talked a lot today about what it looks like to love our neighbors. There are many different ways that we can love our neighbors. Let's ask God to show us ways to love the neighbors we encounter every day in our path.

## Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for loving us and giving us an example of how to love. Ask Him to help us love as He loves, by sacrificing our desires and putting others first.



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