



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: Lookin' for a Leader  
Summer Year 3, Lesson 8

# True Faith Shows True Love

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37, The Good Samaritan

**Key Verse:** Luke 10:27, "... 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids need to know that their faith is practical. Having faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior means that we respond with love. We not only love God, but also love people. Kids need to know that a faith in Jesus Christ makes a difference every day. The difference is the way we show love to our neighbor. Today's lesson answers the question, "Who is our neighbor?" The lesson also teaches us that true faith shows true love to those in need, regardless of whom they are.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus came to us and loved the unlovable as he gave his life for us on the cross.

**Jesus in us:** As Jesus dwells with us, he fills us with the power of his love so that we can love others.

**Jesus through us:** Just as Jesus has loved us, so we can be the representatives of Jesus' love to the world.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day. Remind the kids that what they do on the outside has an influence on what is inside. Begin by saying:*

**Let's have a laughing contest. Everyone act happy on the outside. If you act that way on the outside, it can actually help you start feeling happier on the inside.**

**Now let's do the opposite. Let's see how sad we can make ourselves on the outside. Let's practice crying and pouting. If we do this long enough, we can become sad.**

**Let's try one last thing. Let's act bored and uninterested. Let's yawn and stretch. If we do that on the outside, can we start feeling bored and unexcited on the inside? Sure, we can.**

**Now let's think about how we worship today. How will we act on the outside? Will we pay attention and sing or will we slide around in our chairs and gaze around the room?**

Practice several techniques that are good for worship posture and concentration.

**In worship today, let's remind ourselves that we are inviting the presence of the Almighty God, the one who made us to be here with us. God loved us enough to give us Jesus as our Savior.**

**As we remind ourselves of these things, how should we behave on the outside in worship? How should we sing? How should we pray? How should we listen? Let's get ready for worship by praying that these true expressions of worship would be how we worship today.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies needed: overhead, overhead transparency, marker for writing on transparency*

On an overhead transparency you will make a cross with simple arrows at the tips. For teaching sake, these will illustrate two lines (one vertical and one horizontal). Use the arrows to teach the simple point of the Christian faith that we have a relationship with God (the vertical line), and we have a relationship with others (the horizontal line).

**We have a relationship with God because he came to us. He came to us in Jesus, who gave his life for us.**

Draw a vertical line with an arrow at the bottom tip.



**Because of what Jesus did for us, we love God with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind.**

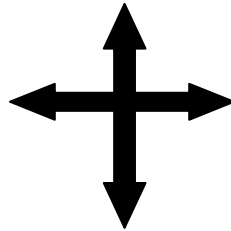
Draw an arrow at the top end of the line.



**Jesus has come to us with his love and we have gone to him with our love. Yet, there is more to the Christian faith. There is also another line.**

Draw a horizontal line with arrows at the ends.

**This line demonstrates that we show our love for God by loving other people. We show love especially to those who need our help.**



**What do you see? It is a cross, isn't it? The cross reminds us of all the lines of love in the Christian faith. The arrow pointing down from heaven is like God giving us Jesus. The arrow going back up to heaven shows our love and worship rising up to God. The horizontal arrow shows our love reaching out to the people around us.**

**Today we will talk about how Jesus says you can show you are a true Christian by how you love other people.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Talk about how our money given to the Lord is used to help other people. Giving offering is our way to show what is truly in our hearts. If we truly love God, we will truly love people and help them.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### **“Love Cushions”**

*Supplies needed: masking tape, folded newspaper torn in half, eggs, chair, large garbage bags to cover the floor*

Give two feet of masking tape, an egg, and half of a newspaper to each group of four children. Each group will use the newspaper and masking tape to make a “love cushion” or protective covering for the egg. The objective is to design a love cushion that will protect the egg from cracking when it is dropped from a height of eight feet.

Allow each group about three minutes to make love cushions for their eggs. After time is up, have one member from each group come forward, stand on a chair, and drop the egg fully equipped with a love cushion. A large trash bag is needed to cover the floor making clean up easier.

After all groups have had a chance to test their love cushions, explain the learning point.

**It takes time and planning to make love cushions to protect the eggs. Sometimes we forget that it takes time and planning to help and take care of the people around us, as well. Our job is to make love cushions for the people around us to help and protect them. Can you think of some ways we can help other people when they might be having a hard time?**

Take examples from the children.

## **Bible Reading:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

Have a kid (a good reader) read 1 John 3:16-18.

## **Application:**

Show the video from Nest Entertainment titled, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Good Samaritan*.



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids share times they have been helped by someone who was a Good Samaritan to them. Also invite kids to tell how they have acted as Good Samaritans to others.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- overhead
- overhead transparency
- marker for writing on transparency

## *Learning Game:*

- masking tape
- folded newspaper torn in half
- eggs
- chair
- large garbage bags to cover the floor

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video, *Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Good Samaritan* produced by Nest Family Entertainment (1989) [www.nestfamily.com](http://www.nestfamily.com)

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