



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 8

Love God, Love Others

Primary Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 The parable of a 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 growing up today will often be presented with the view that love is simply an emotion. They need to know love is an action. Love is a personal sacrifice in giving. Kids need to experience God's truth with the intensity of their whole selves and to love others. This is more than a feeling. It is an action.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus demonstrated a life of perfect love for God and for others. Even though Jesus' love was perfect, he was punished for our lack of love through his death and resurrection. Through this we are given forgiveness and freedom to love again.

Jesus in us: Jesus' life was filled with love. When we have faith in him as our Savior, through the power of the Holy Spirit, these same resources of his love are available to us. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we receive power to love the way he does because he is present in our lives.

Jesus through us: As the event of the Good Samaritan so clearly illustrates, we are to care for others. Others experience Jesus through our care.

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.

Begin with asking the kids the following riddle.

What do you—*only you*—have, that God does not have and wants?

Take guesses from the audience.

The answer is: Your praise and your worship.

Let's think about this riddle. Can God have our praise and worship if we don't give it to him? No. God would never *force* us to praise him or worship him. If he did, then it really wouldn't be praise or worship. Who can give this to God? Only we can.

Praise and worship are very important. It is a way to tell God that we love him. He wants to hear us say it and sing it. When we praise and worship him, God comes right into our song and into our hearts and fills us up with himself. We are not just singing empty words that have no meaning. Our singing brings delight to God. He loves to hear us sing. He loves to hear us give him something that only we can offer—our love. When you praise him, you are showing him your love. Let's do that now!

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.

Needed: two baseball caps

Invite two children to come forward. Give a modern day storytelling account of Matthew 21:28-31. The following is an example.

Jesus once told a story like this about a man who had two sons. The man called his sons to him and said to the first son...

Place cap on first volunteer's head.

"Son, go mow the yard today."

His son replied, "No, I won't do it."

What do you think the father did? Did he spank him? Did he make him mow the yard?

Take a couple responses from the audience.

This father did something very surprising. He let his son disobey him. He went to his other son and said, "Will you mow the yard?"

Place cap on second volunteer's head.

This son said, "Yes, I will," and off he went to mow the yard.

Now the story gets interesting. Guess who really mowed the yard. Who do you think it was? We would assume it was the second son, but in Jesus' story it was the first son who said, "No, I won't do it." He changed his mind and mowed the yard after all. Guess who *didn't* mow the yard in Jesus' story. Right. It was the second son who said, "Yes, I will."

Which son do you think best showed love to his father? The first son or the second son?

Take responses.

The first son did. That is because love is more than a feeling. It's an action.

This story is taken from a parable told by Jesus. Who is the father in this story? (God.) Who are his children? (We are.) How does God show his love to us? (He doesn't force us to obey him. When we disobey him, he forgives us.)

God's love for us is more than a feeling. He showed his love with a very wonderful action. What was that action? Take responses.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us and to live again so that Jesus will live in the life of anyone who believes in him. That person will be a friend with God forever.

Think of a time this past week that you have been disobedient to your parents or God. Did you do something or not do something that did not show love or honor to God or someone else?

Take this time to ask God in your thoughts for forgiveness of that sin.

Pause for children to reflect. Then continue with this prayer.

Dear God, please forgive us for the times we fail to show you we love you with our actions. Thank you for your forgiveness when we disobey you. Help us to remember we can show our love for you when we obey you and other authority like our parents and teachers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to 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.

Hold up a picture of something you value very much. This might be a picture of a car, a home, or a favorite toy from childhood. Explain why this thing is important to you and what is special about it. Then ask:

What is important to *you*? A favorite toy? What is something you value very much?

Take a few suggestions from the audience. Then continue.

Think about that thing. How hard would it be for you to give that thing to God? If you did give it to him, you would be showing in a very strong way that you love him much more than your favorite thing. Love is more than a feeling. It is an action.

God doesn't ask you to bring a favorite toy and give it to him as an offering. He wants you to enjoy your toys and use them in ways that are pleasing to him. He *does* ask you to not let any of your possessions become more important than him. You can do this by giving money to him to show that you trust him and value him above everything else you might have.



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.

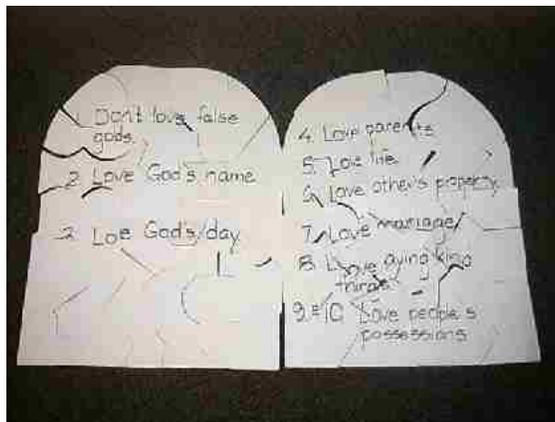
The game activity today is a puzzle that has been incorporated into the Bible presentation.

Bible Presentation:

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.

Exodus 20, The Ten Commandments

Needed for this activity is a puzzle of the two tablets of the law made from two poster boards. To make the puzzle, round the top of the poster boards so that when the two are taped together in the center it looks like the traditional two tablets of the law.



On one tablet is written:

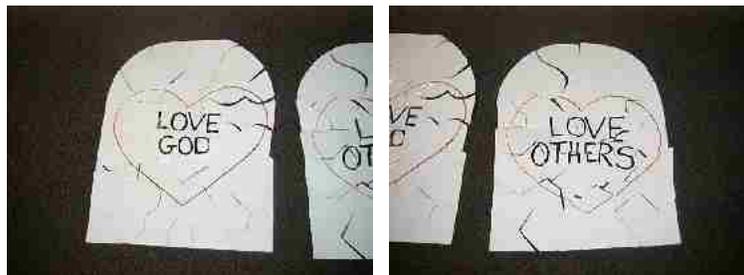
- #1–*Don't love false gods.*
- #2–*Love God's name.*
- #3–*Love God's day.*

On the second tablet is written:

- #4–*Love parents.*
- #5–*Love life.*
- #6–*Love other's property.*
- #7–*Love marriage.*
- #8–*Love saying kind things.*
- #9 & #10– *Don't love other people's possessions.*

Some churches number the Ten Commandments differently. If your church numbers four commandments in the first table of the law, the second commandment will read "Don't love objects as gods," the third commandment will read "Love God's name," and the fourth commandment will read "Love God's day." The second tablet would read "Love parents," "Love life," "Love other's property," "Love marriage," "Love kind words," and "Don't love other people's possessions."

On the back of the first tablet written in bold letters is, "Love God." On the back of the second tablet is written, "Love Others." A red heart is drawn around each of these phrases. The poster boards are then cut into puzzle shapes, keeping the two tablets separate.



For the learning game of the day, have some kids come forward to put the puzzle together. As they are working say:

In Luke 10:25-37 a teacher of the law came to test Jesus. He asked Jesus what we must do to have eternal life. Jesus replied, "*What is written in Moses' Teachings?*" The man replied to love the Lord and love your neighbor. Jesus said this is correct, but you must put your love into action.

As the two tablets of the law are put together, explain how all the law fits together.

The first part of the commandments (*one through three*) talk about how we are to love God. The second part (*four through ten*) talks about how we are to love other people. The only way we can love God or love other people is to first receive God's love for us.

How did God love us with actions and not just a feeling? What did he do to show his love for us? Right! He sent his Son, Jesus. When we trust and follow Jesus, we *want* to obey these ten rules that God has given us. They are God's guidelines for living a good life.

As these tablets are laid out, take transparent tape and run some quick strips over the completed puzzle. The tablets can then be flipped over to see the phrases on the backs. These phrases summarize the Ten Commandments: love God and love others.

Love is more than a feeling. It is an action. Jesus explains this as he told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Show the video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Good Samaritan*. Order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=BHD. It is 25 minutes long.



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.

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.

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.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Offering:

- picture of something you value very much

Attention Grabber:

- two baseball caps

Bible Event:

- transparent tape
- video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The Good Samaritan* (Family Entertainment Network, 1989)—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=BHD
- two tablets cut from poster board and made into puzzles. Round the top of the poster boards so that when the two are taped together in the center it looks like the traditional two tablets of the law.

On one tablet write:

- #1—*Don't love false gods.*
- #2—*Love God's name.*
- #3—*Love God's day.*

On the second tablet write:

- #4—*Love parents.*
- #5—*Love life.*
- #6—*Love other's property.*
- #7—*Love marriage.*
- #8—*Love saying kind things.*
- #9 & #10— *Don't love other people's possessions.*

Some churches number the Ten Commandments differently. If your church is one, please see the script for how to number the tablets differently.

On the back of the first tablet, write in bold letters, "Love God." On the back of the second tablet, write, "Love Others." Draw a heart in red around each of these phrases. Cut each poster board into puzzle shapes, keeping the tablets separate.

