



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: Lookin' for a Leader  
Fall Year 3, Lesson 15

# Take Care of Your Neighbor

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

**Key Verse:** Luke 10:27b, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

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

As kids become more socially aware, they need to understand how they connect with different groups, especially at the beginning of school. Kids need to fit in and find friends. One of the best ways to do this is to first care about others. This is especially true if others are different from oneself. Jesus' teaching using the Good Samaritan is a classic illustration that helps us to love others regardless of their differences. For the Christian, this love is possible because Christ first loved us.

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

**Jesus for us:** Jesus entered our world (neighborhood) so that he might bring us friendship with God through his death and resurrection in our behalf.

**Jesus in us:** Because of Jesus' love in our lives, we have the power to love as Jesus did.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus' love can touch the lives of others through our actions and attitudes as we take care of our neighbors.

## 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.*

Spend a few minutes demonstrating the group relationship game, Cinnamon Roll Hug. This can be done with a sampling of 10-15 students up front or a larger group in an open area. Don't require all to participate. Later you may want to talk about helping those who are feeling "outside" the group to feel included.

The Cinnamon Roll Hug begins with the leader going to the audience, picking a child and holding his/her hand. That child then grabs the hand of another child who then grabs another hand as the line passes by. The line continues to move and grow until the desired limit is reached. The leader may want to first illustrate the game with a small group of 10-15.

The leader begins to slowly turn around in place while encouraging all the children to hang on to the hands of the people they are connected to. The line begins to move as it wraps itself in a "cinnamon roll" pattern around the center person. The end effect is a large group hug as they circle closely together.

The game can end at this point or the "cinnamon roll" can unwind itself by reversing the process.

After you have completed the game, discuss.

**Did you see how this game pulled everyone together in one big "cinnamon roll?" That's what God wants to do. He wants to pull us all together as his family. But what makes the shaping of the "cinnamon roll" hard work? What happens if someone lets go of**

another's hand before they are wound tightly? Right, the "cinnamon roll" cannot be completed. What would happen if the last person didn't reach out to someone new? It would stop growing.

The church is like the "cinnamon roll." We need to reach out and invite others to take a hand and join along. Sometimes people feel left out when no one invites them in. We always want to invite others to be a part of our group. That's not just here at church, but also in our neighborhoods and at school. We want to reach out and welcome them into God's family, too. We can always invite them to church and let them know that God loves them.

It is important to let others know that Jesus gave his life for them. Then they can be a part of the big "cinnamon roll" hug, also.

Let's worship God now as he gives us a big hug and invites us in.

## **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: a cross concealed in a box or container*

**Kids, in this box I have something that God uses to make his church into one big "cinnamon roll" hug. It's at the very center and attracts people to hang on and get wrapped in God's love. What do you think is in my box?**

Give hints like the following:

**It is an important symbol in the church and it is a symbol of God's love. Yes, it's the cross.**

**Because Jesus gave his life for us, he gave us the power of forgiveness and made it possible for us to be friends with God. Each week we remind ourselves of Jesus' love and invite him into our lives. As we do this, we remind ourselves that he winds us up in a big "cinnamon roll" hug.**

Let's pray:

**Dear Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us. Thank you that you reached out your hand to us so we can hang on and be wrapped all together as your church. Thank you for loving us. We ask that you would live in our lives. Help us to reach for other people's hands and invite them to meet you. Help us take care of our neighbors. If there is any way we have been mean to another person or haven't included them, please forgive us. Instead, help us treat them as our neighbor. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **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.*

*Supplies needed: cross*

Place the cross in the middle of the offering basket. As the kids come forward to give their offerings, remind them that it is Jesus who brings us all together. When we give our offerings to him, he can use the money to help others.

Mention any current mission projects.



# 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.*

*Supplies needed: a beach ball for Option 2*

### *Option 1*

Continue playing “Cinnamon Roll Hug” in a more open space. Take longer to gather in the people at the end of the line. The leader can then lead the children throughout the room or outside through the yard before moving into a “cinnamon roll” hug.

Another variation is to have the front of the line try to reach back and touch the person at the back of the line while they try to avoid being touched. This is tried before the group coils into a Cinnamon Roll Hug.

### *Option 2*

Play a group game requiring everyone to work together such as Beach Ball Volleyball. Beach Ball Volleyball can be played indoors if the kids are required to remain seated on the floor while playing. Use a well-inflated beach ball and a line of tape on the floor or a row of chairs to indicate the net line.

**Who did you notice that did something to help someone else during our game? Discuss. How did people show care and concern for others while playing? Discuss. Today we will hear Jesus tell us a story about what it means to care for our neighbor. Who do you think might have been a neighbor to you in this last game that we played? Discuss.**

## 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.*

Introduce the video by reading Luke 10:25-29. When the kids hear the word “neighbor,” have them stand up and switch seats with a person near them. This, of course, causes a great commotion, but lets them know the key word is “neighbor.” Jesus is broadening

the definition of neighbor for the expert in law who asks him the question, “Who Is My Neighbor?” For kids this concept is important. Ask kids to be ready to answer the question, “Who is my neighbor?” at the end of the video.

## Application:

*Needed: video, Are You My Neighbor? A Veggie Tale video produced by Big Idea Productions, 1995*

Show the Veggie Tale video, *Are You My Neighbor?* When the video ends, have the following discussion:

**What demonstrated it knew its neighbor?** (*The pot wearing asparagus.*)

**Who knows the parable or story that Jesus told from the Bible that this movie is based on?** (*The Bible event is the Good Samaritan.*)

Ask kids “**Who can tell the Bible event?**” Let them review.



## **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 talk about a time they did something kind for someone they didn't know very well... taking care of a neighbor.

## **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 chair. 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:

## *Power of the Cross:*

- cross concealed in a box or container

## *Offering:*

- cross in the offering basket

## *Learning Game:*

### *Option 1*

- nothing needed

### *Option 2*

- beach ball

## *Application:*

- video, *Are You My Neighbor?* A Veggie Tale video produced by Big Idea Productions, 1995

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