The Kind Stranger *Bible lesson*

Luke 10:25–37 · 30-minute core or 60-minute full lesson



BIG IDEA

Be a kind neighbor to everyone.

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 10:37 BSB

“Go and do likewise.”

LESSON AT A GLANCE

0–6	**Welcome** · Help or pass	
6–10	**Hook** · The trick question	
10–20	**The Story** · The Story	●
20–30	**Talk** · Talk	●
30–35	**Memory Verse** · Memory Verse	●
35–40	**Sing** · Sing	
40–50	**Activity** · Road to Jericho review	
50–55	**Respond** · Neighbor plan	
55–60	**Pray & Send Home** · Pray & Send Home	●

● Core step. Teach just these for the 30-minute version.

Leader prep

Bible background

An expert in the law asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life. He answered with the law: love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:25–27). Wanting to justify himself, he asked, “And who is my neighbor?” (10:29).

Jesus told of a man going down the steep, dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers beat him and left him half dead. A priest saw him and passed by on the other side; so did a Levite, a temple worker (10:30–32). These were the people listeners expected to help.

Then a Samaritan came. Jews and Samaritans had hated each other for centuries. He had compassion, bandaged the man’s wounds, put him on his own animal, took him to an inn and paid for his care (10:33–35). Jesus asked which one was a neighbor; the expert answered, “The one who showed him mercy,” and Jesus said, “Go and do likewise” (10:36–37).

Where is Jesus in this story?

Jesus is the truest kind stranger. We were the ones hurt and helpless by the road, and He came to us when we were far from God, cared for us, and paid the full price to make us well. Because He showed us mercy, we can show mercy to others.

Supplies

- Band-aids or strips of cloth for ‘bandages’
- Masking tape
  Prep: Tape a long ‘road’ across the floor before class.
- Printed story cards, verse poster, coloring pages and parent pages
  Prep: Print from the Classroom resources section.
- A screen for the story video (optional)

Questions kids might ask

“Who were the Samaritans?”

People who lived near the Jews but worshipped differently. The two groups didn’t get along, so a Samaritan helping a Jewish man would have shocked Jesus’ listeners.

“Why didn’t the priest and the Levite help?”

The Bible doesn’t say. Maybe they were busy, scared, or worried about rules. Jesus wants us to notice that knowing about God isn’t the same as loving like Him.

“Should kids stop to help strangers?”

Being kind to everyone doesn’t mean going with strangers. Kids can help by getting a grown-up, being kind at school, and including others. Talk with your class about safe ways to help.

If a child shares something serious

When kids share what scares or worries them, some may mention something serious, like someone hurting them or a big fear at home. Listen, thank them for telling you, and don't promise to keep it secret. Tell your ministry leader the same day and follow your church's child-safety policy. Some kids in the room may have lost someone, or have someone sick at home. Watch for kids who go quiet or upset, sit with them, and let their parent know after class. Never promise that sick people always get better; say that Jesus is with us when people are sick, and one day He will make everything well, forever.

Teach it

SAY read aloud DO leader action KIDS SAY call and response

1 Welcome 6 min

Full lesson

Help or pass

DO Read quick situations (a kid drops their lunch, someone is sitting alone, a new kid can't find the classroom). Kids step left for "help" or right for "pass by," and say why.

SAY It's easy to know what to do in a game. Today Jesus tells a story about people who walked right past someone in need.

2 Hook 4 min

Full lesson

The trick question

SAY A man once asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" He was hoping Jesus would give him a short list.

SAY Instead, Jesus told a story with a surprise ending. Listen for who the hero is.

3 The Story 10 min

Core

DO Play The Kind Stranger video (3 min), or read it aloud with the story cards.

SAY Listen for who stopped and who didn't.

DO After the video, have kids open their Bibles to Luke 10:33–37. Ask a confident reader to read it aloud.

SAY The hero was a Samaritan, the last person the listeners expected. Jesus turned the question around: not "Who is my neighbor?" but "Will I be a neighbor?"

KIDS SAY **Go and do likewise!**

4 Talk 10 min

Core

Who walked past the hurt man? Who stopped?
Listen for: A priest and a Levite walked past. A Samaritan stopped.

Why was it surprising that the Samaritan helped?
Listen for: Samaritans and Jews didn't get along. He helped someone who might have looked down on him.

What did the Samaritan do to help? List as many as you can.
Listen for: Bandaged his wounds, poured on oil and wine, put him on his animal, took him to an inn, paid for his care, promised to come back.

Who is hard for you to be kind to?
Listen for: Answers vary. Jesus helps us love people who are hard to love.

OLDER KIDS Read Luke 10:25–29. What was the man really asking? How does Jesus' story answer him?

5 Memory Verse 5 min

Core

DO Write the verse on a whiteboard or hold up the poster. Teach the motions.

> **“Go and do likewise.”**
>
> Luke 10:37 · BSB

MOTIONS

- **Go** Walk in place.
- **and do** Hold out helping hands.
- **likewise.** Point to yourself, then to a friend: you too!

PRACTICE IT THREE WAYS

1. Say it with motions.
2. Disappearing words: erase or cover one word at a time until kids say it from memory.
3. Say it fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

6 Sing 5 min

Full lesson

> The Little Lantern song for this story is coming soon. For now, sing a favorite worship song about loving our neighbors.

7 Activity 10 min

Full lesson

Road to Jericho review

DO Kids line up at one end of the taped road. Each correct answer moves your team one step closer to the ‘inn’.

What road was the man traveling on?
Listen for: From Jerusalem to Jericho.

Who passed by first?
Listen for: A priest.

Where did the Samaritan take the man?
Listen for: To an inn.

What did Jesus say at the end?
Listen for: “Go and do likewise.”

What question did the expert ask that started the story?
Listen for: “Who is my neighbor?”

> Prefer a quieter room? Hand out the mini-book or a coloring page instead.

8 Respond 5 min

Full lesson

Neighbor plan

DO Kids write: “Someone who needs kindness is ____. This week I will ____.”

OLDER KIDS Write about a time someone showed you mercy when you didn’t expect it.

9 Pray & Send Home 5 min

Core

DO Pair kids up. Each names one person they will be kind to this week, and their partner prays for them.

SAY Close: Jesus, thank you for showing us mercy. Help us see people who need help, and stop to love them. Amen.

DO Hand out parent pages.