

big faith

SESSION 12

Unit 3: Recipe for Love

Faith Focus: Jesus teaches us to love and welcome others.

Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. (John 13:34)

GROW IN FAITH

One Part Compassion—Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the good Samaritan is told in the context of an interaction between Jesus and a lawyer. The lawyer wants to test Jesus and so he asks questions. Rather than answering directly, Jesus answers the question with a question and follows with a story. Much of this interaction comes out of skepticism and debates around social expectations.

In some retellings today, people use the word “neighbor” instead of “Samaritan.” This change potentially weaves both of the lawyer’s questions into one. By removing the identifiers, it gives us an opportunity to put ourselves in all roles of the story. When we read it in this way, we might gain more compassion for everyone—maybe even those who might turn away from a neighbor in need. This Bible story reminds us to look at ourselves and how the person we are reflects in the lives of others. Christ-like compassion allows us to see people fully, regardless of race, gender, culture, or ability. Jesus’ response to the lawyer continues to challenge us today: “Go and do likewise.”

- Draw pictures of neighbors.
- Play helping games.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

Good Samaritan Bandages (Craft)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

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FUN WITH FAITH

Considering Compassion (Drama)

My Neighbor Is ... (Game)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

large wooden craft sticks

glue sticks

plastic sandwich bags

CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or
streaming device

permanent marker

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the bandage sticker on the Session 12 space.

SAY: We are hearing stories about how Jesus helps us share God's love with the world.

ASK: Who do you know who shares God's love with the world? How do you share God's love with the world?

Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, scissors, large wooden craft sticks, glue sticks

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20). Photocopy "A Helping Story" (Leader Guide—p. 82) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "A Helping Story."

SAY: Jesus helped people learn how to treat each other with care and kindness. Another word for that is "compassion." Sometimes Jesus told stories to help people understand how to have compassion for others. One story he told was about a person who helped someone else who was sick and hurting.

ASK: Who helps you when you are sick? What do they do to help you? Have you ever helped someone when they were sick?

- Give children time and space to color the sheet. Then help the children cut out the figures and glue each one to a large wooden craft stick.
- Tell the children that after they hear the Bible story, they will be able to use these figures to tell the story to others.

Good Samaritan Bandages

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors, plastic sandwich bags

Prepare Ahead: Tear out “Good Samaritan Bandages” (Session 12 Activity Sheet) for each child.

ASK: When you are hurting, what do you do to help yourself feel better? What do others around you do to help you?

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will hear about a kind person who helps a man who is hurt. Sometimes when our bodies hurt, grown-ups or doctors might use bandages to help a wound heal. When our hearts hurt, we can heal by receiving compassion from others. Sometimes we can even feel better when we give compassion to others.

- Give each child an activity sheet. Have them cut out the bandage images.
- Give each child a plastic bag to keep the bandages in and to take home with them as a reminder to show compassion to others and be a good Samaritan.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook, story puppets made earlier

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus teaching about the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: Why did some people in the story not stop to help the man who was injured? Why did the Samaritan stop to help him? What would you do if you saw someone who was hurting?

- Give children time to retell the story using the puppets they made earlier.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 12 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, permanent marker

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) and Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other" (John 13:34).

SAY: When people cook, they often follow a recipe. The recipe tells them what is needed to make the meal the best it can be.

ASK: Do you ever help a grown-up cook? What food do you help them make?

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.

ASK: How do you help people you love?

- As the children share, use a permanent marker to write their answers on the poster above the "Compassion" bowl.

FUN WITH FAITH

Considering Compassion

- Gather the children in a circle.
- Read the following scenarios to the children and invite two or three children to act out each one. Then have them tell you if there was compassion in that story or not.
 - ☐ A child takes care of a pet.
 - ☐ A grandparent helps a child color a card for their parent.
 - ☐ Someone pushes someone down on the playground.
 - ☐ A doctor helps a sick person.
 - ☐ A pastor listens to someone who is sad.
 - ☐ Friends celebrate a birthday together.
 - ☐ A family volunteers to share a meal with someone who is hungry.
 - ☐ A teenager helps carry an elder's groceries.
 - ☐ A child gives another child a hug when they feel sad.

ASK: What is one way you want to show compassion or help others ?

SAY: Each of us can show compassion. We can notice people around us, ask how they are feeling, listen to them, and try to help them if they need help.

My Neighbor Is ...

ASK: How do you know someone is a good neighbor? What do they do or say?

- Gather children into a circle. Pick one child to go first.
- Direct the child to say, "My neighbor is someone who ..." and then to add one good thing that describes a person (plays soccer, has a cat, likes purple, brushes their teeth, and so forth).
- Have all children who relate to the statement run through the center of the circle. The child who said the statement has to tag someone who runs through the circle. That person goes next.
- Repeat until all children have had a turn.

ASK: What did it feel like to be the leader who said, "My neighbor is ..."?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) as needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: Our Bible story today showed us how we can help each other. We can have compassion by noticing when someone is hurting and taking action to help them. We can love people by showing compassion.

ASK: Who shows compassion to (helps) you?

- Go around the circle and invite the children to share who shows compassion to them. After everyone has shared, invite the children to put their hands in the center of the circle and repeat the Bible verse after you: "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other."
- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Repeat after me: "God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to live with compassion. We praise you for teaching us how we can help each other and share your love with the world. Amen."

- Send the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn't received them.
- Also send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE

SESSION 12

A Helping Story

Color the people from today's Bible story. Cut them out to make puppets that can help you tell the Bible story.



Art: Tatevik Avakyan/Illustration Online LLC

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