

## LOVING THY NIEGHBOR Lesson

### Key Verse

He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (*Matthew 22:37–39 RSV*)

### Bible Story

The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37

### Opening Game: "Would You Rather?"

Ask the group these questions:

#### ***Would you rather...***

- Eat chocolate brownies or eat broccoli?
- Ride a bike or run in a race?
- Pet a puppy or pet a snake?
- Watch TV or play a game?
- Fly in an airplane or ride in a racecar?

**SAY:** This game helps us think about things we don't like and things we do like. Some of things we like more than others. We might even say we love some of these things.

**SAY:** We are talking about love today. We say we love lots of things. I love soccer. I love pizza. I love candy. I love my mom and dad. But what does love really mean? According to the dictionary, love is a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.

**READ ALOUD Key Verse:** *Matthew 22:37–39 (above)*

**SAY:** The Bible teaches about love. In fact, our key verse for today is all about love. It tells us to love God and love others. Let's take a look.

Let's break this down. Part one says to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does that mean? We should love God with everything in us. All we do, say, and think should show God just how much we love him.

Part two says to love your neighbor as yourself? What do you think that means? Well, we should love other people and treat them the way we want to be treated.

So, love God and love others.

### Bible Story

**SAY:** One day Jesus told a parable. Remember, parables are stories Jesus told to teach a lesson. The lesson he wanted to teach with this story is this: How do you love God and love your neighbor? What exactly does that look like?

**READ:** *The Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)*

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.<sup>l</sup> “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” <sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii,<sup>l</sup> gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**SAY:** In this story, how did the Samaritan show love to the hurt Jewish man? (*He helped him. He took care of his wounds. He took him to the inn so he could have time to get better.*) See, the Samaritan did all he could for the man. What makes this story even more interesting is that back then, Samaritans and Jews were enemies. Do enemies usually help each other? Does Captain Hook help Peter Pan? Does Scar help Simba? Jesus wanted the people to learn this very important idea: Everyone is your neighbor. We should care for and show love to everyone.

**SAY:** Who is in your life that you can love? When you show love to others you are also showing love to God.

Let's pray: Lord, thank you for teaching us how to love you and other people. Help us to show that kind of love every day. Amen.