



GIFTS OF
COMPASSION

KIDS MINISTRY LESSON PLAN



Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name



**GIFTS OF
COMPASSION**

***USE THIS PLAN TO TEACH
CHILDREN THAT LOVING OUR
NEIGHBOUR ISN'T RESTRICTED TO
THOSE THAT LIVE CLOSE TO US.***

Through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, children will learn that loving our neighbour includes loving and helping everyone!





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BIBLE VERSE

“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, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”
—Luke 10:27

LESSON TAKEAWAY

Children will discover that loving God is linked to loving your neighbours. We can love and help our neighbours, both near and far, even when we don’t know them personally.

ACTIVITY

Write the word “love” on the board (or on a large piece of paper). Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine someone they love. Ask a few children who came to mind and try to restate the children’s answers into statements about who God wants us to love.

For example:

- If a child says “mum” you could say, “Good answer, we do love our mums—God wants us to love our mums.”
- If a child says “friends” you could say, “That’s right, we do love our friends—God wants us to love people we see at school and church.”
- *Teacher: These are all good answers, but today we are going to learn that God wants us to love everyone in our lives. Even people we don’t know.*

Write the word “neighbour” on the board (or on a large piece of paper). Ask the children to draw a picture of one of their neighbours and then give them a chance to tell you why they picked them.

Teacher: These are all wonderful pictures; you all have some great neighbours. But today, we’re going to learn that in God’s kingdom, neighbours don’t necessarily live close to us.





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BIBLE STORY

ACTIVE LISTENING: In the story we are going to read from the Bible, Jesus explains to a man who our neighbour really is and tells him what it really means to love your neighbour.

In this story there are three characters:

- 01** Priest
- 02** Levite
- 03** Samaritan

Listen carefully to the story to see when they are mentioned and try to work out which person really showed love.

Read (and summarise) Luke 10:25-37.

Perhaps you could ask three children to read aloud the parts of the narrator, the expert and Jesus.





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LUKE 10: 25-37 (NIV)

*Please use a Bible translation suitable for the children in your class.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘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, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”





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DISCUSSION

- 🔊 Jesus says the most important commandment is to ‘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 he adds another one. Do you remember what it is? Let’s read it together to refresh our memory.

Read Luke 10: 27.

Teacher: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ This means that loving God is linked very closely to loving our neighbours.

- 🔊 Who were the three characters in the story?
- 🔊 Which of them stopped to help the injured man?
- 🔊 Did the Samaritan man know the Jewish man who was hurt?

Extra information: Explain to the children that there was a long history of hostility between the Samaritans and the Jews. This further enriches the Samaritan’s decision to stop and help the Jewish man.

- 🔊 Why did the Samaritan man stop to help the Jewish man?

Teacher: He had a heart that was moved with compassion.

- 🔊 Which of the three did Jesus say acted like a good neighbour?

Teacher: This means that we aren’t only meant to love and help the people we know or like. Jesus tells us to go and act in the same way as the Samaritan man did. He tells us to go and be a good neighbour to those around us. We are to love and help anyone we can because they are all our neighbours, and we are called to love them.



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HOW CAN YOU HELP NEIGHBOURS YOU DON'T KNOW?

ABOUT COMPASSION

Compassion is an organisation that helps children who live in poverty all around the world. Some children in our world don't have money for food or clothes or a safe place to live. Some don't have clean water or the opportunity to go to school or to hear about how much Jesus loves them. These children are our neighbours, just like the people who live close to us. And they need our help!

We can love them and show them how much God loves them by doing our part to help.

MEET THE CHILDREN

Use a globe and ask children to guess where the country El Salvador is located.

These children that we are about to meet live in a village called Perquin in El Salvador.

You can print out the photo or show it on a screen and tell the story associated with the photo.



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— EL SALVADOR



YESSICA, EIGHT YEARS OLD (LEFT)
AND ARGELIO, 10 YEARS OLD (RIGHT)

COMPASSION AUSTRALIA



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MEET YESSICA AND ARGELIO

Yessica is eight years old and Argelio is ten. They are neighbours that live next to each other. Yessica and Argelio's parents find it difficult to get work to earn enough money to take care of their families. So having chickens means that the families can get fresh eggs to eat and they can also sell the chickens to get money for clothes and medicines.

Yessica and Argelio help care for their families' chickens.

"We feed the chickens and give them water. We also help to keep their area clean," says Yessica.

Argelio's chores include making sure the chickens are fed. Argelio says his top tip for feeding chickens is to do it in the morning because the chickens are pretty hungry when they wake up!

ARGELIO LOVES TO EAT THE EGGS LAID BY THE CHICKENS. HIS FAVOURITE WAY TO EAT EGGS IS SCRAMBLED! WHAT'S YOURS?

Children like Yessica and Argelio are part of Compassion's program through their local church. The program helps them to know about the love of Jesus but also helps them to go to school, to have healthy food to eat and a safe place to grow up. The gifts you give through Gifts of Compassion will help children just like them and their families to know that there are neighbours who love and care for them around the world!





ACTIVITIES

COLOURING

Encourage the children to colour in the chicken on the colouring sheet attached as a reminder of their friends in El Salvador. They can take home their artwork and put it up in their room to remember to pray for Yessica and Argelio.

FUNDRAISING

If you would like to give a gift to a neighbour who needs your help, ask your parents to show you how. You might need to save up or raise money to buy a gift. How do you think you could do that?

Ask children to brainstorm ideas.

Suggest examples like:

- Saving up pocket money
- Donating part of any money you get for your birthday or Christmas
- Holding a bake sale or lemonade stand to raise money to buy a gift for a child

PRAYER

Lead the children in a time of prayer where they focus on praying for children in poverty around the world.

Please print and hand out the Information for Parents sheet containing the relevant information about Gifts of Compassion.



**SEARCH FOR
COMPASSIONAU**

COMPASSION AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 1, HUNTER REGION MC NSW 2310
Phone: 1300 22 44 53 | Fax: 02 4935 5099
ABN 67 001 692 566

compassion.com.au

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