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My New Neighbor

Key References: Luke 10:25-37; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 54, pp. 497-505; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 108-111; Our Beliefs, nos. 10-12















power**text**

"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 neighbor as yourself" ' " (Luke 10:27).

power**point**

When we love God, He helps us love our neighbor.

Whom do you know that moved into your neighborhood who did not seem to fit in? How might that feel? How do some students at your school dress or talk differently from you? How do you treat them? Jesus gave us an entirely new definition for the word "neighbor" in one of His stories.

Jesus sat on the hillside teaching. As usual, a lot of different people listened to Him. Some came because He gave them hope. Some came because He helped them understand the love of God. Others came because they doubted Him and wanted to test Him. Today a lawyer was in the crowd. He was one who wanted to test Jesus. So he asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus, who could understand this lawyer's heart, answered his question with a question. He wanted everyone to hear and understand. "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

The lawyer smiled proudly and said, "'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 neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus responded. "Do this, and you will live" (see Luke 10:25-38).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

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Sunday

READ Read Ephesians 2:4-10 and this week's story, "My New Neighbor."

CREATE Make a paper or cardboard frame to tape around a mirror. Write the power text, Luke 10:27, on the frame. Look in the mirror every day and begin to learn the text.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand how special you are to Him so that you will be able to love others as you love yourself.

Monday

READ Read Luke 10:25-28.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" on one page. On another page, write, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

LIST On each of the pages, start a list of positive statements about how you can apply these commandments to your life.

PRAY Pray that God will show you how to live for Him.

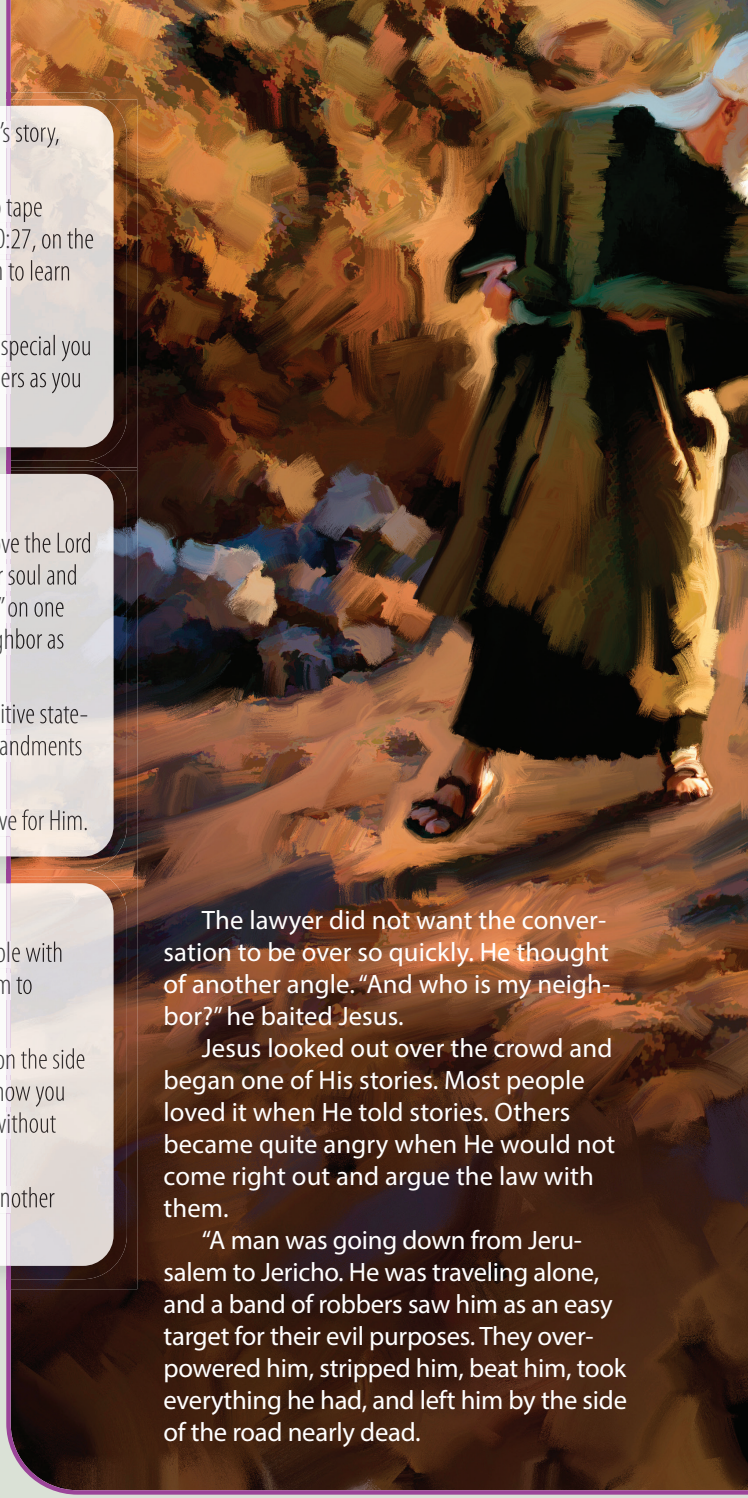
Tuesday

READ Read Luke 10:30-35.

RESEARCH Look in a Bible dictionary or a Bible with maps and find out how far it is from Jerusalem to Jericho.

WRITE Picture yourself wounded and lying on the side of the road. Write in your Bible study journal how you would feel if a deacon and a pastor went by without helping you.

PRAY Ask God for the willingness to assist another person who needs your help.



The lawyer did not want the conversation to be over so quickly. He thought of another angle. "And who is my neighbor?" he baited Jesus.

Jesus looked out over the crowd and began one of His stories. Most people loved it when He told stories. Others became quite angry when He would not come right out and argue the law with them.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was traveling alone, and a band of robbers saw him as an easy target for their evil purposes. They overpowered him, stripped him, beat him, took everything he had, and left him by the side of the road nearly dead.



"A priest happened along the same road. He saw the man, possibly dead, by the side of the road. Quickly he slipped to the other side so that he could appear not to have noticed. After a while a Levite came across the wounded man. After looking at him, he crossed over to the other side so he would not be considered unclean.

"Finally a Samaritan man came along with his loaded donkey. Instead of being afraid that he might be attacked, the Samaritan stopped out of pity. His only thought was that this person by the side of the road needed his help. Taking wine and oil and cloth from his supplies, he dressed and bandaged the wounded traveler the best he could. Then, carefully, he placed him on his donkey and headed on to Jericho.

"At the first inn he reached, he helped the wounded man get settled for the night as comfortably as he could. The next morning, after making sure the wounded man was resting comfortably, the Samaritan placed some money before the innkeeper. 'Please take care of this man. Here is a deposit. I will pay anything more you spend on him when I return this way.'"

Jesus stopped at this point in His story and looked at all the upturned faces around Him. Then He looked at His questioner. "Which of these three do

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Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 7:12, Jesus' summary of how we should treat others.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write how you would like others to treat you.

THINK Do you always treat others as you would like them to treat you? Why or why not?

PRAY Thank God for not treating us as we deserve.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 10:29, 36, and 37.

DISCOVER Talk with an adult and, with their help, list some needs that exist in your community.

DISCUSS Talk with your closest friends about choosing a project to do together to fill a need in your community.

PRAY Ask God to bless your adventure for Him.

Friday

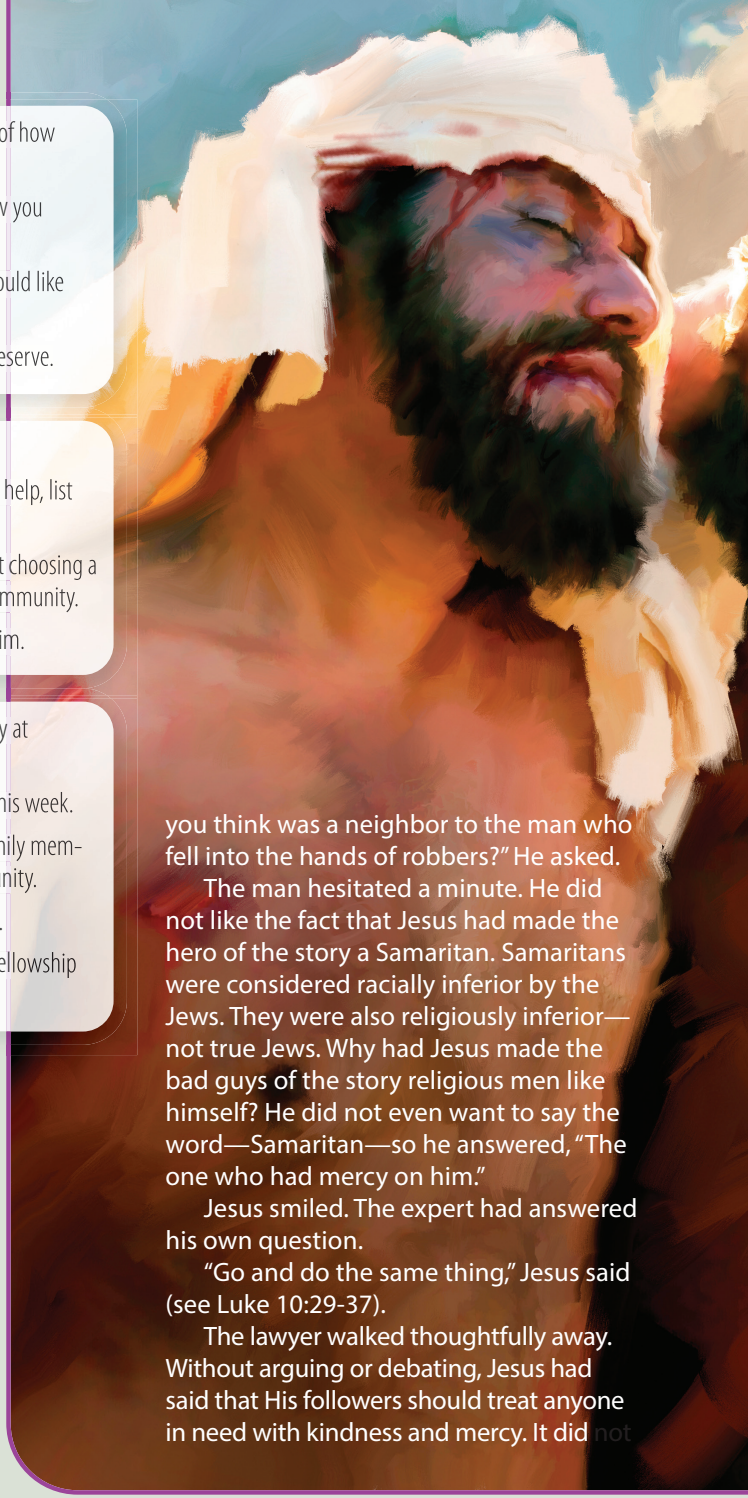
READ Read Philippians 2:5-11 to your family at worship.

REPORT Tell what you have been studying this week.

SHARE Share ideas of how you and your family members could be good neighbors in your community.

SING Together sing a song about fellowship.

PRAY Ask God to strengthen your sense of fellowship with Him and all His other children.



you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" He asked.

The man hesitated a minute. He did not like the fact that Jesus had made the hero of the story a Samaritan. Samaritans were considered racially inferior by the Jews. They were also religiously inferior—not true Jews. Why had Jesus made the bad guys of the story religious men like himself? He did not even want to say the word—Samaritan—so he answered, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus smiled. The expert had answered his own question.

"Go and do the same thing," Jesus said (see Luke 10:29-37).

The lawyer walked thoughtfully away. Without arguing or debating, Jesus had said that His followers should treat anyone in need with kindness and mercy. It did not



matter what color their skin was, how smart they were, what language they spoke, or even how they smelled. Anyone in need was their neighbor. And the heroes of everyday kindness were not always religious people. Sometimes the best example came from a despised Samaritan who knew how to love.

PUZZLE

7 THE GOOD NEWS IS FOR EVERYONE

Can you decode this puzzle using this key? The bold lines separate the words. Place the correct letters on the spaces below and find out how God wants us to treat Him and others.

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