

7

My New Neighbor

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

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).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 10:25-37
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 54, pp. 497-505
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 108-111
- student story on page 82 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 12, The Church

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Christians respond to human needs regardless of race, language, or religion.
- **Feel** a loving concern for all people.
- **Respond** by reaching out to people around them.



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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

One day a lawyer asks Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him what is written in the law. The lawyer accurately replies that he should love God with all his heart and his neighbor as himself. Jesus agrees. The lawyer responds with another question: Who is my neighbor? Jesus responds with a parable. A traveling man is attacked by thieves. Two model citizens pass him without helping. Someone from a different ethnic background comes by and helps him all the way to recovery. When Jesus asks which person acted as a neighbor, the lawyer responds that the one who showed mercy did.

This is a lesson about community.

In our daily lives we come across many different people, and we live in a world that is shrinking every day. Technological advances coupled with shortages of food and mineral resources are causing us to have to depend on one another.

Jesus knew that we would always need to reach out to one another. As Christians we are called to respond to those in need regardless of race, language, or religion. When we live up to this call, God smiles. He takes pleasure in those who demonstrate their love for Him by serving others.

Teacher Enrichment

"In the story of the good Samaritan, Christ illustrates the nature of true religion. He shows that it consists not in systems, creeds, or rites, but in the performance of loving deeds, in bringing the greatest good to others, in genuine goodness" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 497).

"Again Jesus refused to be drawn into controversy. He did not denounce the bigotry of those who were watching to condemn Him. But by a simple story He held up before His hearers such a picture of the outflowing of heaven-born love as touched all hearts, and drew from the lawyer a confession of the truth" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 498).

Who are "neighbors" in my world? How can I show them mercy? (*Steps to Christ,* p. 105).

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Find-a-Neighbor Party*	simple refreshments; simple, useful wrapped gift for each student
		B. Lineup	masking tape or method for creating line on the floor
		C. Not Like Me	paper and pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 77. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*What's Going On?*	small pieces of paper and an envelope
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Adopt-a-Neighbor*	paper and pencils, whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ simple refreshments
- ☐ simple, useful wrapped gift for each student

Find-a-Neighbor Party

Part One: Have a simple snack for party refreshments (juice, crackers, fruit slices). Check for food allergies before serving the food items to the students. Say: **There is only one condition to having refreshments at our "find-a-neighbor party." No one may take or feed themselves anything. This is a party for filling the needs of those who need/want some refreshments.** Encourage the students to mingle and feed and serve each other. No one is to serve or feed themselves.

Part Two: Have an assortment of wrapped presents, enough for each of your students. These should include simple items with which they can be of help to someone the following week (felt-tip pen, tube of glue, hammer, washcloth, paper plate).

Say: **I have a gift for anyone who is willing to participate in a special project this coming week.** Don't force anyone who doesn't want to participate.

When those who choose to participate have taken a gift and opened it, explain that they must find a way to use their gift to help someone in need in the coming week. They are to report back to the group next week.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you like our party?** Encourage discussion and honest reaction. **Parties are usually for celebrating something. What do you think this party was in celebration of?** (our neediness; helping others; God's love and care for us)

Say: **This party was called a "find-a-neighbor party" because our lesson today is about the true definition of "neighbor." This week's power point is:**

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

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ masking tape OR line on floor

Lineup

Tape a line on the floor and ask everyone to get in line according to shoe size. When they have accomplished this, ask them to notice who is beside them. Then ask them to line up according to their birth date (month and day, not age). Again, ask them to notice who is beside them. Finally, ask them to line up according to height. (You may make it more difficult by saying that no one can talk while lining up.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How difficult was it to get in the right order? How did you end up each time? In different situations, different people become neighbors. Who is your neighbor at home? Who are your neighbors at school? Which neighbors are here today? How do we treat our neighbors? Today's power point is:**

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

Prayer and Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Not Like Me

Supply paper and pencils. Divide students into groups of two our three and ask them to make a list of as many different types of people who are not like them as they can (possible categories from which they can choose: sex, age, hair color, nationality, intelligence, ability, religion, handicap, wealth). If they ask, encourage them not to stick to one type of "not like them," such as a list of all the different nationalities they can think of.

When they have had time to make a list, ask them to place a check beside each of the types of people they would like to have as a neighbor.

Debriefing

Ask: **How willing would you be to help those people on your list that you did not check? How could you help the people on your list that you did not check? What differences will there be in the way you offer help to people like you versus people who are different? In our lesson today we find out who our neighbor is, and how we should treat them.**

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

Accommodation for students with special needs

Students with special needs may need to receive assistance from their partner or group members in completing the list for this activity.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Want to Be Like You" (*Praise Time*, no. 90)
"Go Out With Joy" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 153)
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 126)
"Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 130)

Mission

Say: **Missionaries, though sometimes faced with doubts about their success, put them aside so that they can tell others about Jesus.**

Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **No matter how far away this quarter's overflow offering is going, the people there are our neighbors.**

Prayer

Ask the students to separate into groups of two or three. Ask each small group to pray for someone who needs help. Then ask each group to find one way to help that person. If the students need help thinking of ways to be of service, offer some suggestions.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **If you were cold, what would you do?** Wait for responses. **If you were in prison, what would you want someone to do for you?** Wait for responses. **If you were hungry, what would you hope for?** Wait for responses.

Say: **We love ourselves enough to take care of ourselves. If we can't for some reason, we hope and pray that someone else will come along who can.**

Ask: **When have you ever been in need and unable to take care of yourself?** Encourage students to share experiences.

Say: **Our lesson today is about sharing God's love with others by taking care of their needs.**

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

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have students mime the story as it is read from the Bible. Assign the following parts to student volunteers: (1) traveler, (2) priest, (3) Levite, (4) Samaritan, (5) innkeeper.

Show the students where to stand. Tell them to act out what the narrator reads from the Bible, without any talking. Have a good reader (possibly yourself) be the narrator and read Luke 10:25-37.

Debriefing

Ask: **How would it feel to pass by someone in need? How would it feel to be passed by? How would it feel to help? How would it feel to watch someone else help when you hadn't? With what role in the story do you most identify? With what role in the story do you least identify?**

Accommodation for students with special needs

Students with some special needs may not be able to participate in the activity. Have them observe and reply to the debriefing questions.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's look at a question in James 2:15, 16 and try to answer it.** Have a student volunteer find and read the verse aloud.

Ask: **Who can answer this question?** Wait for responses. **How would it feel to say to a cold, hungry person, "Get some clothes; get some food; get a life"?**

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

Say: **And God asks us to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Say: **Let's also look at how Paul encourages us to love our neighbors as ourselves, because we love God. Let's read Philippians 2:1-4 together.** Wait for the students to find the text; then read the four verses aloud with them.

What's Going On?

YOU NEED:
- small pieces of paper
- envelope

Write the following situations on slips of paper and put them in an envelope. Have enough slips so that there is one for every three students—you can make up new situations or repeat some of the following.

- A student at school seems lonely.
- An elderly neighbor has a lot of snow on their sidewalk (or grass to be cut).
- A new student in your class is being picked on at recess.
- A homeless man is sleeping on a park bench you pass on your way to school.
- The parents of a Sabbath School class member you don't know very well are getting a divorce.
- Two little children are playing in the yard next to the church every Sabbath when you come to Sabbath School.
- A family in your apartment complex is having financial problems because neither parent has work.

Divide students into groups of three. Have each group pick a slip of paper from the envelope. Tell them that they have three minutes to discuss the situation, decide how to be of help in this situation, and be ready to share with the rest of the class what they would do.

When the three minutes are up, have each group present their situation and solution.

Debriefing

Ask: **With which decisions do you agree? How many of these situations were realistic? Which ones are similar situations to the ones that exist in your own life?**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Adopt-a-Neighbor

Say: **Let's look at three areas of your life in which you might find a neighbor in need this week—your home, your school, your church.** Write the three categories as three column headings where all can see. **What are some needs that you can meet in one of those areas of your community this week?**

Write ideas in the columns as students brainstorm. Some quiet ones may not participate, but will be getting ideas.

After you have gathered a list of ideas for each area, have students pick one idea and/or person and make a commitment to fill a need or do an unexpected act of kindness this week. They will report next week. (If you had a "find-a-neighbor party" already, you might help students think of ways to use their "gift" this week.)

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

(Optional) Special Project

One way that we can help people in our community is by giving an offering. Ask your students to decide on a special community project that your Sabbath School class can help with. Perhaps there is a collection being taken for a sick child or needy family.

Other seasonal projects that your class could adopt are painting, cleaning, shoveling snow, raking leaves, or the class might make regular visits to a hospital or nursing home.

Let's repeat our 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).

Closing

Prayer and comments:

Pray that God will reveal His love to each of your students this week, and that they will share that love by loving their neighbor-in-need.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus teaches love for enemies. When we follow Jesus' example, we will learn to love everyone.**

Notes

Student lesson

My New 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.)

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 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.

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 10:25-37
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 54, pp. 497-505
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 108-111 ("The Good Samaritan")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 10, 11, 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.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

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.

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 special 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 them 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.