

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Good Samaritan

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 4 WEEK 4

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Packet of wine gums (you can substitute this with any sweets of different flavours or different kinds of fruit).

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

- Pack out one of each flavour of wine gum (or the substitute you chose). Talk about what each flavour is, and which flavour each family member loves and why. Give each family member one of their favourite flavour sweets to eat.
- Discuss how we each have our preference of flavour of sweet and that's okay. Is it the same with people? Are there some people we prefer to spend time with and others not so much? (Try to make this as practical as possible talking about friends/family members we may not always get along with or like).
- What does God expect of us as Christians? What does the Bible say? (Use this activity to gauge what your children's thinking are around the subject of loving your neighbour as yourself).
- Say: In today's Bible story we're going to see what God expects from us with regards to other people. Let's take a look.

2

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- Luke 10:25-31
- Luke 10:32-37

3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A man came up to Jesus and asked Him what the most important commandment is. Jesus said this: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and equally as important, love your neighbour as you love yourself. He even said that "all the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The man who was asking Jesus this question was an expert in the law, so he knew all of the commandments. He also knew how many laws the Pharisees had added onto the original laws from the Old Testament. This man loved thinking, talking and arguing about the laws a lot more than he worried about actually obeying the laws. He was trying to test or trap Jesus in His own words. Then Jesus turns this situation into a teaching moment.

4

4

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Jesus told a parable. A parable is a story with 2 meanings, one of the meanings being hidden. This story didn't really happen, but it was believable because it could easily have happened. The distance from Jerusalem to Jericho is about 25 kilometres (that's about as far as Hillcrest is from Durban North). This familiar road ran through rocky, desert country that provided places for robbers to hide and make surprise attacks on people.

The people listening to this parable could have easily imagined themselves to be the man who was robbed in the parable. It would have been a relief for the injured man to see a good Jewish priest come along. How do you think he felt when the priest passed by without helping him? Another Jew, a Levite (the people working in the temple), should have also stopped, but he didn't.

The Jewish people listening to Jesus' parable, would have expected other Jews to help a Jew in obvious need. What they did not expect was the next thing that Jesus said. It was not a Jew who finally helped this man, it was a Samaritan! The Samaritans were looked down on by the Jews. The Jews thought of them as "half-breeds" and not true Jews. This goes back to 2 Kings when the Jews of the Northern kingdom were taken captive by the Assyrians and the King of Assyria sent his own people to live in Samaria.

In the parable, this Samaritan man goes the extra mile to help the Jewish man. He not only helped him in the moment of need, but he also got personally involved in the man's situation. He spent the night taking care of him and then paid an inn keeper so that the man would be taken care of until he was well. Two silver coins was what the average person earned in two days. That's a fair amount of money that he spent on this Jewish man. The two silver coins would have been enough for up to two months stay in an inn.

Then Jesus asked those listening to the parable, which of the three men loved their neighbour – the priest, the Levite or the Samaritan man. I don't think the man who asked Jesus the question about the most important law was expecting an answer like this. He was probably angry about this story, but he had no choice but to answer that the Samaritan man was the one who loved his neighbour. He knew that the Samaritan had obeyed God's law while the priest and Levite did not.

We too have to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Neighbours are not just the people who live next door or across the road from us or that are in our circle of friends and family. Neighbours are not even just the people who attend church with us or even just those who believe in God. Neighbours are anyone who is in need.

Sometimes helping our neighbour is very difficult and inconvenient. Sometimes it's uncomfortable or even tricky to work out how to really help someone. But this is what Jesus wants us to do, to obey the two most important commandments: To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What did Jesus say the two most important commandments are?
- Why is the Samaritan man in Jesus' parable called the "Good Samaritan"?
- According to Jesus Parable of the Good Samaritan, who is your neighbour? (Anyone who needs help)

5



6

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- When you think back to our sweet activity earlier, are we allowed to pick and choose who we love, like we do with sweets? *(No, God wants us to love everyone)*
- Is it always easy to love our neighbour as we love ourselves? *(No. Sometimes we don't like or get along with certain people).*
- How can we as a family love our neighbours? *(Brainstorm and write down at least 5 practical ways your family can love those around you).*



7

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank Jesus that He loved us first.
- Thank Jesus that He loved us so much that He died a horrible death for us so we can be saved.
- Pray that God would remind you to love those around you as you love yourselves.
- Ask God to show you how you can meet others needs and show love to them.