

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS STUDY

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Look Out for Your Neighbor!

Teaching Purpose: Teach Children the power of compassion and the importance of working together.

Scripture Passage: Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

1. Ice Breaker

Play-Doh You Know!

Divide the group into smaller groups of three. Give each group a few cans of Play-Doh. Invite them to work together to create a Play-Doh version of the following items one at a time. Give them one minute to create each item. Each time, at the end of the minute, give them a chance to show the rest of the class. Plan for discussion time between each challenge.



A Heart

Ask: What can a heart represent when we think of kindness?

Possible answers: "It takes a big heart to be kind" or "it takes love to be compassionate" or "everyone has a heart."

Explain the meaning of the word compassion and that it is demonstrated through kindness.



An Apple

Ask: What can an apple represent when we think of compassion?

Possible answers: "We are kind when we offer food" or "an apple reminds us that God provides for us."

Explain: Compassion means meeting people's needs, like providing food for the hungry.



A Hammer

Ask: What can a hammer represent when we think of compassion?

Possible answers: "We build people up when we are kind" or "compassion fixes lots of problems."

Explain: Another way to show compassion is to provide (or build) shelter for people who have lost their homes.



Louisiana

Explain: There are people in our state who need others to show them compassion and help meet their needs.

Ask: What are ways we can show compassion to those around us?

2. Study the Scripture

Read Luke 10:25-37, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, together.

Divide the children into groups and assign them roles from the story (e.g., the injured man, the Samaritan, the priest, the Levite). Encourage them to act out different parts of the story, discussing the emotions and choices of each character. Provide simple props like bandages and a makeshift traveler's bag.

Ask:

Why do you think the priest and Levite passed by without helping?

What would you have done if you were in the Samaritan's place?

Who are the 'neighbors' in our lives that we should help?

3. Share a Video

Show a video from the GBO website:
Compassion Goes to Church

Discuss the video:

How are compassion and kindness helping the men in the video?

Why do you think they call their church Rescue Church?

How can compassion be fun?

4. Return to the Text

Recap the story of the Good Samaritan:

There was an ordinary man walking in between two towns. Along the way, some bad people attacked him, took his things, and beat him up. He was left on the side of the road, feeling very hurt and sad. Now, soon after this happened, a priest walked down that same road. A priest is someone who helps in a church. But when the priest saw the hurt man, he crossed to the other side of the road and kept walking. He didn't stop to help.

Then, a helper called a Levite came along. Levites were also meant to be ministers who help people. But this Levite also crossed the road and didn't help the hurt man.

Finally, a Samaritan man came along. Back then, Samaritans and the man who was hurt didn't usually get along. But this Samaritan saw the hurt man and felt sorry for him. He went over and bandaged his wounds, put him on his own donkey, and took him to a safe place to stay. The Samaritan even paid for the man to be cared for until he was better. He showed kindness and love to someone who needed help, even though they were different from each other.

Ask: What are the ways the Samaritan showed kindness?

Possible answers: He stopped and helped, he was generous with his money, he didn't just leave him at the inn never to return, or he promised to return.

5. Discuss the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Tell the group about why your church gives through GBO.

6. Brainstorm

Ask the group to think of ideas for raising money for the offering this year.

7. Pray

Read one of the stories in the Prayer Guide and invite students to pray for the people and programs mentioned in the story.

Pray for God's help in developing hearts of compassion and for opportunities to demonstrate His love to those around us. Pray for our efforts to fund missions and ministries in Louisiana through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

For more resources, visit:
GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG