

# Luke 10:25-42

## Practice Love

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-42

**Memory Verse:** Luke 10:27b *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”*

**Lesson Focus:** As we look at one of the most famous passages of Scripture (the story of the Good Samaritan) we will challenge the kids to not only “practice love” but remember the gospel which reminds us WHY we should “practice love”.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Good Samaritan, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for ALL Grades: Kids Care Packages for Mercy’s Gate

**Starter Activity:** Practice Makes Perfect

Many of life’s greatest pursuits require both skill and practice. While everyone is naturally gifted at doing certain things, to be “good” at those things typically also requires time and effort. To get the lesson going, first have some discussion about activities that the kids might be pursuing that require practice: (i.e. learning to read, playing an instrument, sports, dance, karate, etc.)

Afterwards, have a few “advanced” activities prepared and ready to have kids come up and try doing. Below are a few ideas to consider and invite volunteers up to give each one a shot. While you don’t have to be “good” at these yourself, if you can do any of these well, humbly demonstrate your skills to the kids to reinforce this idea that you had to devote time and effort to practicing this before you could do it well! And if you have a different activity that you can do well, use it!

- 1) Bring in an unusual musical instrument and have a kid try playing it. \*
- 2) Bring in a few balls and have a kid try juggling.
- 3) Bring in marshmallows and have a kid try throwing/catching one in his mouth. \*
- 4) Grab some cards and have a kid try shuffling them.
- 5) Bring in a book in a foreign language and have them read it out loud.

After each one, ask this question:

Q: What needs to happen for you to get better at this activity? A: PRACTICE!

While doing many of these things well is fine and good, Jesus is going to teach us today what life’s ***most important*** pursuit is. And just like we have seen so far, with any pursuit worthy of our attention, it requires practice! Let’s take a look!

## Bible Study:

**Luke 10:25:** It appears that while Jesus was teaching He was suddenly interrupted by a religious expert with a question. \* However, it seems that this guy “had a beef” with Jesus \* and was not asking in search of truth, but to trap Him. (Not a good idea!)

**Luke 10:26:** Jesus steps up to the challenge and responds with questions of His own! \*

Q: What was this “law” Jesus asked him about? A: This refers to the Old Testament (the books of the Bible written before Jesus came), and especially the first five books of the Bible where God gave the Jewish people laws or rules like the Ten Commandments. \*

**Luke 10:27-28a:** Remember that this challenger is an expert on the Jewish religious law and so he gives a solid answer which Jesus affirms is correct. In fact, this echoes what Jesus teaches Himself at another time when asked what the greatest commandment is (see **Matthew 22:37-40**).

Q: What was the one action that summarized all of the law? A: **Love!** Love God and love others! Now this word “love” is used so loosely and freely today that we need to stop and consider what Jesus meant.

Q: What is something that you might say you “love”?

A: Candy, Minecraft, Disney princesses, playing with friends, etc. We use it mostly to express the way we FEEL about things.

But do you think that is what Jesus meant? “Feel good” about God and your neighbor? NO! Love is an action. It is a skill. It is a choice to joyfully put God and others before yourself \* and it requires....PRACTICE! This love is that greatest pursuit of life that we talked about at the beginning: loving God and loving others!

**Luke 10:28b:** And Jesus finally answers the original question with a challenge. \* Do this and you will live? Whoa! Who can honestly say they have loved God and others enough? NO ONE! If you think you have, you are fooling yourself. You remember how many of you failed at doing those activities that needed practice at the beginning? Well, in the same way we ALL fail at loving God and loving others the way that we should! \*

**Luke 10:29:** At this point the questioner should have begged Jesus for mercy recognizing he could never do this. Instead, he proudly “justifies” himself by asking Jesus a “smarty-pants” question in an attempt to squirm out of the challenge. It’s not going to work! \*

**Luke 10:30-35:** Jesus answers by telling what has become one of the most famous stories in the whole Bible. **Teachers:** Consider reading through v. 30-35 first having the kids listen. Ask them to be paying attention to who the main characters are in the story. Afterwards then invite several volunteers up to silently act out the characters as you read through it a second time. Finally, see next page for some discussion Qs. \*

Q: Do you know who the Samaritans were? A: They were enemies of the Jewish people! Yet who was the one who “practiced love” on the Jewish man in need? Not the famous religious celebrities (priest and Levite), but the enemy, the Samaritan! \* All people are worthy of our compassion, enemies or not!

Q: What are some ways that he “practiced love” on the Jewish man? A: Bandaged his wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for food and shelter.

**Luke 10:36-37:** Jesus wraps things up by correcting the questioner one last time. The right question isn’t “who is my neighbor”, but “who can I BE a neighbor to”!

What about us today? I bet most of you have noticed the homeless in our city asking for help. Ever wondered how you can “practice love” towards them like this Samaritan? One simple way that requires help from your parents is to put together care packages that you can give them with food, water, and directions to shelters like the Springs Rescue Mission. \* We also have an activity after the lesson that will help you practice but before we get to that, let’s finish this chapter to see WHY we should “practice love”.

**Luke 10:38:** Imagine if after church today your Mom told you that you were going to be having Jesus and the disciples over for dinner. I bet you would do the best job on your chores ever! \*

**Luke 10:39-40:** Martha certainly seemed to be working harder than ever on keeping house for Jesus. But her sister Mary was spending time with Jesus, listening to Him!

Q: Which sister do you think was “practicing love”?

A: While Martha may have had good intentions of serving and being a good host initially, she certainly was not loving her sister (tattling even!). Mary was “practicing love” by giving Jesus her all! She was loving God with all of her heart, soul, mind, and strength! This wasn’t time to vacuum and cook, but time to be with Jesus!

**Luke 10:41-42:** And Jesus agrees. Martha was so busy keeping house she was going to miss the time with her guest! \* And that reminds us that before we can properly love our neighbor, we must practice loving God and be reminded of God’s love for us!

**Key Point:** All throughout this lesson we have been talking about how love is not just a feeling, but it is a skill that we must hone with practice. But why practice at all? Read **John 3:16** and **1 John 4:19**. God first **chose** to love us, even though we were His enemies because of our sin! Wow! Let’s practice loving God this week! \*

Q: What are some ways you can do that? A: Like Mary, listen to Jesus by reading His Word, memorizing it, and praying.

But that is not all. Jesus wants you to practice loving your neighbor as well. That includes your parents, your siblings, and even the kids at school that might be your enemies. Like the Good Samaritan, practice putting their needs before your own! How will you practice love this week?

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 10:27  
What is life's most important pursuit?

*Parent Signature:*  
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*Parent Challenge:*  
Why should we be like the Good Samaritan?  
(see 1 John 4:19)

Read Luke 10:36-37  
Who can you practice "being a neighbor" to this week?

