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Train & Multiply™

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My Neighbor



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

21

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“Lord use this study to enable your children to love our neighbor, not with words but actions.”

Love without actions is hypocrisy: *“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”* (James 2:26)

The Apostle Paul taught the Galatians the life of FAITH. This life of faith of the New Testament produces ACTION. In his letter Paul instructs us:

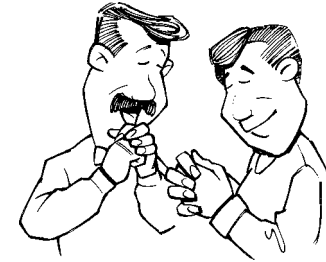
“So let us not become tired of doing good, for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone but especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.”

(Galatians 6:9-10)

Are you committed to demonstrate your love with action?

PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray for believers, that they will be rooted and established in love. (Ephesians 3:17)



- Memorize 1 John 3:18: *“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*
- Teach your congregation the story of the Good Samaritan.
- Help the congregation to decide what needs they will deal with in love, as a body and individually.
- Help the congregation to name and mobilize those who coordinate these works.

Believers in Christ started the first unions so that exploited workers could receive a just wage.

Besides evangelizing and planting churches, missionaries show concern for the health and education of peoples who have been pushed aside by society.

Churches often provide medicine for the sick and poor; they have built the first clinics and hospitals in neglected areas.

They have struggled to improve agriculture and industry wherever the people suffer.

True believers notice the needs of the people. They listen; they care; they visit, counsel and help. When we love with action, the entire community changes. The salt penetrates. The light prevails. In time, governments accept Christian standards for social care even when those who govern are not Christians.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Jesus illustrates love in action in His parable of the Good Samaritan.

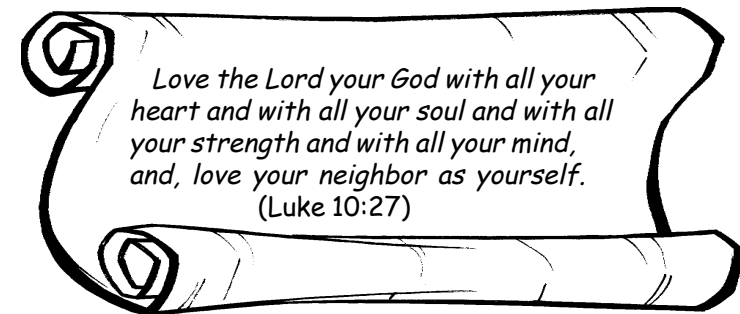
Read Luke 10:25-37 now, noting the details.

☐ Mark this box when you have done so.



What did the teacher of the Law ask Jesus first? (verse 25)

Jesus asked him to answer his own question. What was the reply of the teacher of the law? (verse 26-27)



Did he answer correctly?

Love in action is born of sincere faith. Through our faith the Holy Spirit lives and works in us. (Galatians 5:22)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says: *“Hear, oh Israel, the Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”*

To love God like that, we always put His commandments first. Our love for our neighbor comes from our love for God. All love originates in God. God is love. The teacher of the law recognized this. But he wanted to discuss it.

What did he ask Jesus in verse 29?

Jesus responded to this second question with the story of the Good Samaritan.

BREAD AND BUTTER CHRISTIANS

Many people followed Jesus after He had fed them miraculously with bread and fish. Jesus saw that they followed Him because of the bread. He warned them that the only bread that gives life is His own flesh. They had to personally accept His sacrifice for them and give their lives to Him, in order to have eternal life. Offended, they left Him. (John 6)

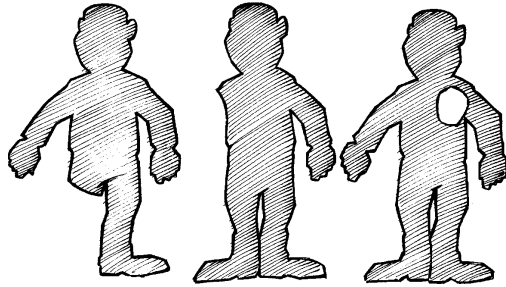
Satan tempts the faithful to be selfish when we least expect it. To avoid this temptation, we must give generously and show our love for our neighbor with actions.

JESUS DEALS WITH THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY THROUGH HIS CHURCH

The congregation that shows its love for its neighbors with actions is light for the whole community.

The church has struggled to liberate the oppressed. It has promoted laws to protect the poor.

For lack of love some churches fail to grow normally. They do not receive new believers with genuine, enthusiastic love.



For a new believer, to be accepted by the church is the same as being accepted by God. If the members receive him in love, he feels loved by God, too. But if the members pay him little attention, he finds it hard to believe that God has forgiven him.

LOVE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE ON THAT TERRIBLE JUDGEMENT DAY

True faith leads to love. Loving actions for our neighbor will be the evidence when the Almighty judges between the faithful and the false. Jesus revealed this terrifying day of judgement in Matthew 25:31-46. God will judge between the sheep and goats of all nations. Many call Him “Lord,” but God separates the sheep from the goats on the basis of other criteria. Those who have treated their neighbor with loving actions, He places at his right hand; these enter into His glory. Those who did not treat their neighbor with love He places to His left; these go to the eternal fire.

What happened to the Jew who traveled down from Jerusalem from Jericho?

What did the priest do when he arrived? (verse 31)

A pastor might say: “I’m too busy with the Lord’s work to deal with the physical needs of just anyone.” He would be committing the same error as the priest.

What did the Levite do when he arrived? (verse 32)

Someone might say: “It’s more important to dedicate oneself to the needs of the church. Why should we take responsibility for a complete stranger?” The person would be committing the same error as the Levite.

Who felt compassion for the man in need? (verse 33) _____

The Samaritans were enemies of the Jews. But what did this Samaritan do for this wounded Jew? Write down three things that he did. (verse 34-35)

Jesus asked which of the three men was a neighbor to the victim who had been assaulted. What did the Samaritan do that showed his love with action? (verses 36-37)

Prepare an outline for a message on Luke 10:25-37. If you cannot do it yourself, use the following outline.

Theme: Practical love.

Text: Luke 10:25-37.

Point 1: Love is the proof of our sincere faith. (Read and explain verses 25-29, adding other examples.)

Point 2: Love is not shown simply preaching or attending church. (Read and explain verses 30-32, adding examples.)

Point 3: Christian love is demonstrated by our actions. (Read and explain verses 33-37, adding examples.)

Application: As Christians, we also help our neighbor when he needs it. This kind of love proves that our faith is sincere. Ask your people to think about whom they should show more love, and how will they do it.

THE INCOMPLETE PERSON

God created us to love Him and each other. A person who does not love is incomplete. A selfish Christian is like someone who not only lacks an arm or a leg, but his very heart. Without love, his soul withers and dies.