

LESSON 3: LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Roleplay script:

Narrator's Introduction: Christians sometimes have what we call a “narrow view of the Gospel.” They understand that accepting Jesus is a life-and-death decision, but they don't understand something else. When they are blind to their neighbor's needs, their message is actually lost. [pause] Today, we'll visit a very poor home. The only resident, a poor sick person, is ill and in bed. A visitor, a Christian evangelist on a door-to-door ministry campaign, has just arrived.

Evangelist (EV): Hello, hello! Anyone home? May I come in? (Enters)

Poor Sick Person (PSP): (Weakly) In here...

EV: Hi. I'm _____ from _____ Church. I just came today to invite everyone to our church. The Lord has been blessing us with a powerful revival. You won't want to miss it.

PSP: (Groans, speaks haltingly) Can't come...can't get out of bed... too sick to move... lost my job... no money for medicine... or food... or rent...

EV: Those are big problems, but I know someone who has the answer to all of life's problems. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

PSP: (Weakly) My family and friends left me when I got sick and lost my job... Could anyone from your church help me? Please?

EV: The best help you could get is found right here in this little tract. It explains God's plan for your life. You know, it isn't His will that you're laying here! Take this, read it, pray the sinner's prayer, and believe!

PSP: (Weaker) Can't... too weak... (Stops talking, lies motionless.)

EV: (Checks pulse) Still alive! Praise God, I got here in time to witness! I'll leave the tract. I'd better get going so I can minister to other lost souls. (Talks loudly in PSP's ear) We'll pray for you. Remember, Jesus is the answer. (Leaves)

PSP: (Watches him leave, groans) Ohhhhhhhhhhh...

(Do nothing else – or whatever seems appropriate)

Questions to ponder:

- Have you ever seen or known of people who shared the gospel like this?
- How successful was it in the long term?
- How does this method of evangelism compare with the way that Jesus ministered?

HIT PLAY TO CONTINUE

Part 1:

Read the following verses. What are the two things that we are commanded to do?

Matthew 22:36-40

Luke 10:27

Read the following verses. These verses only mention one of the two things from above. Which is it?

Matthew 7:12

Romans 13:9

Galatians 5:14

What are the two commands we see in the first set of verses?

What does Jesus say is the greater of the two commandments? (*Read again Matthew 22:37-38*)

When the Law and the Prophets are summarized by only one of the Great Commandments, which is it?

Why do you think Jesus chose to summarize the Law and the Prophets using this command?

HIT PLAY TO CONTINUE

Part 2:

Read I John 3:17-18, I John 4:20, and James 1:27.

- What do these verses teach about loving our neighbor?
- What is the relationship between God's love and our response to people's needs?
- Is it possible to share the love of God without helping people with their need?
- Are we disciples of Jesus if we are not ministering to the social and physical—as well as the spiritual—needs of people?

HIT PLAY TO CONTINUE

Part 3:

Read Luke 10:30-37.

- Did the Good Samaritan know the person on the ground?
- What was the Good Samaritan's reaction to that person? How was it different from others?
- How did the Good Samaritan show love to his neighbor? Did he do just enough or more than necessary?
- What does this story teach us about who our neighbor is?
- What can we learn from this story about showing love to our neighbor?

Application:

Think about the people who you see often and what is one thing that you can do for that person in order to act like the Good Samaritan.