

Share the Dream Sunday

Elementary Sunday School Lesson based on Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s example of biblical love.

Includes:

- ✓ Group Activity
- ✓ Acting out the Story
- ✓ MLK's Example
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Memory Verse



Elementary Sunday School Lesson on Love for Share the Dream Sunday

Theme of Lesson – God loves everyone without exception. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or girl, it doesn't matter the color of your skin, it doesn't matter what country you live in. And God asks us to love the same way that he loves.

Activity

Aim: To expend energy and show that people are different

Materials: Clock or stopwatch to time the activity

1. Gather the students together and say: "There are some ways in which we are similar to some people and different than others. For example, some people have blue eyes and others have brown. Let's play a game. If you have blue eyes, gather in the right corner. If you have brown eyes, gather together in the left corner. If you have green eyes, gather together in the back corner. I am going to time how long it takes us to get in order of height. Ready? Go!"
2. Say: "Let's try and beat that time. We're going to gather in groups again but this time by age. So let's get together in groups of the same ages."
3. If you have extra time, you can play more rounds of this game using other attributes.
4. At the end of the allocated time, say: "There are many ways in which some of us are different than others. But there are many ways in which we are all the same. God loves each one of us."
5. "Today we are going to hear a story from Jesus about loving others like God loves us and learn about a man from the United States not too long ago who taught us the same lesson and lived it himself."

Introduction

The date was August 28, 1963. The place was Washington, DC. A crowd of more than 250,000 Civil Rights supporters had gathered outside the Lincoln Memorial,

filling the area around the reflecting pool and out toward the Washington Monument, to take part in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march was partly intended to demonstrate support for Civil Rights legislation proposed by President John F. Kennedy.

Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist pastor, was one of the speakers that day. What followed was the now famous “I Have a Dream” speech, in which Martin outlined his vision of freedom and equality in a land that still practiced racism and hatred.

Martin was speaking out asking for everyone to be treated the same – with love, respect, and dignity. In his speech, he said this, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.”

Throughout Martin’s life—and in his last public speech—he used the parable of the Good Samaritan as an illustration of the love, mercy, and compassion of God being extended across the boundaries of race and culture.

Storytime

Let’s read that story. Read Luke 10:30-37.

Acting the Story

Aim: To understand loving others who are different than us

1. At the end of the story, say: “We’re going to act out the story. I need 6 volunteers.” (Victim, priest, Levite, Samaritan, donkey, and innkeeper. Make sure the victim has the same color eyes as the priest and Levite but different from the Samaritan. If you have lots of students, you can have some play the part of the robbers).
2. Re-enact the story with you as the narrator and the actors playing their parts as you read. Make sure you call out the difference of eye color. For example: “A brown-eyed girl was walking the road from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers who beat her and robbed her. A certain

brown-eyed pastor walked by a little time later but passed on the other side of the road. In the same way, a brown-eyed religious teacher walked by and passed on the other side. But when a certain green-eyed girl with her favorite donkey came by, she rushed to the side of the brown-eyed girl and loved her. The green-eyed girl gave the brown-eyed girl some of her water and food, bandaged her wounds, and then put the brown-eyed girl on her trusty donkey and took her to the nicest hospital she could find. The green-eyed girl told the doctor to give the brown-eyed girl the best care – that she would pay for it.”

3. To end the story, ask Jesus’ question of “who was a friend to the brown-eyed girl?”

Understanding the Story

One time, someone asked Jesus what the greatest command of God’s was – the most important thing. Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

Ask: “Who is the neighbor we are to love as ourselves?”

Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to a religious teacher’s question, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). Many people, both in that time and still today, prefer to define *neighbor* as limited as possible.

But Martin Luther King Jr loved Jesus’ response. Martin said that Jesus answered that question by placing it in a real-world situation. Jesus ended up saying, this was the good man, this was the man who showed love, because he had the capacity to love his brother, who was different than him, like he loved himself.

We live in a world that is divided. It's all too easy for us to focus on our differences and "pass to the other side" instead of loving others as we love ourselves. But Jesus calls us to be like the Samaritan in the parable.

Ask: How can we love the people around us this week?

Martin's Example of the Story

Some people didn't like that Martin was trying to get equal treatment for people of all races and colors. In 1956, some people even tried to kill him and his family by bombing his home. Thankfully, Martin, his wife, and one of his youngest children escaped their home and no one was hurt.

Almost immediately, an angry crowd from the community gathered wanting to attack those responsible for the bombing. But when Martin arrived, he made a powerful declaration of his commitment to nonviolence and Jesus' command of love. He said this:

"Don't get your weapons. He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword. Remember that is what God said. We are not advocating violence. We want to love our enemies."

Praying the Story

Pray aloud, thanking God that his love is a gift for every person in the world, and asking that this great love would change us so we love others like we love ourselves.

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."



“Go and do likewise”
(Luke 10:37).

