PLOT TWIST

WEEK 2 – THE GOOD SAMARITAN

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Main Point:
Outsiders can be insiders when they obey God.

This Week's Message:
Jesus always has a way with the religious leaders of His day. They sought to challenge and undermine His authority but get a good dose of humility in return. A quick lesson on the simple and comprehensive commands of God stuns them into a place of self-reflection.

Scripture:
Luke 10:25-37

This Month's Memory Verse:
""So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 NIRV

Videos: See www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources

- Game Video
- Bible Story Video
- Review Quiz Video
- Worship Videos

Suggested Order of Service:

1. Game Video – 3 Min
2. Icebreaker Activity - 5 Min
3. Message – 25 Min Total
    a. Lesson – 15 Min
    b. Bible Story Video – 2 Min
    c. Discussion Time – 5 Min
    d. Review Quiz Video – 3 Min
4. Memory Verse Activity – 10 min
5. As time allows:
    a. Work on Take-Home Page
    b. Worship Videos

GAME VIDEO:

Food Fight 3

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

Touchdown

Have students divide into two teams and take turns throwing small footballs, or other soft types of balls into large boxes. See which team can gather the most in the time allotted.

Say, **“Let’s see those biceps! You’ll need them for this fun game. I’m going to have you split right down the middle here and go to each side to line up. See those big boxes down there? You’ll take turns throwing these little footballs into the boxes for your team. Once you make one, go to the back of the line. If you miss it, you have to get it, come back, then throw again. So be sure to aim well. Are you ready? Go!”**

LESSON:

Main Point:
Outsiders can be insiders when they obey God.

Scripture:
Luke 10:25-37

Introduction
Boys vs Girls. It's a tale as old as time. The boys have a tree house that's just for them and there's a sign on the door - "No Girls Allowed." The girls have their secret hideaway in a playhouse that looks like a dollhouse and if a boy comes in, a plastic frying pan gets thrown at him because he defied the "Boys Keep Out" sign on the front. We love to play little games where there are insiders allowed in, and outsiders who have to stay out.

Transition
This was the case between two people groups in Jesus' day - the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans were Israelites, just like the Jews. But because of their history, the Jews did not consider the Samaritans to be pure Israelites, like they were. So they treated Samaritans as outsiders, who were not welcomed in Jewish circles. This is the setup for this teaching by Jesus. But before we talk about the Samaritan, we need to learn about another guy – a lawyer.

Play Bible Story Video Here

Luke 10:25-28
On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

This is a typical situation throughout Jesus' ministry where the teachers of the law would challenge Him to see if He aligned with traditional teachings. So it's no surprise that this lawyer asked Him a hefty question about inheriting eternal life. Talk about being hot right out of the gate! And of course, this guy knew the answer. He just wanted to see what Jesus would say, and maybe make himself look good while he was at it.

He answered correctly. And he would have been sitting pretty if he had left it right there. But he asked a follow up question that opened a whole new can of worms.

Luke 10:29
But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

He wanted to justify himself. In other words, he wanted to know exactly who his neighbor was, so that he would know who he had to love, and who he *didn't* have to love. And Jesus responded to his question with a story.

The Traveler

A man was traveling a dangerous, lonely road, when he was attacked by robbers. They took his things, beat him up, and left him for dead. Eventually, a priest came traveling by, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side of the road. Later on, a Levite came along and did the exact same thing.

The Insiders

Priests and Levites were religious insiders. These two men would have been in and around the temple, and they would have known the law. But instead of stopping to help, they breezed past the poor guy on the opposite side of the road. And they would have felt one-hundred-percent justified in doing so.

Being near someone with injuries would have made them ceremonially unclean. So they stayed as far away as they could. They also believed that suffering was a punishment from God. So looking at that poor, beaten man, they could say to themselves, "the guy probably deserved it."

The Outsider

But then another guy comes along. He's an outsider – a dirty, impure Samaritan. And when the Samaritan sees the man lying on the road, he has compassion. He bandaged the man's wounds, put him on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for the man's expenses.

Here we have a Samaritan, an outcast, going above and beyond to care for a stranger because it was the right thing to do. It didn't matter this poor man's social standing or religious affiliation or his ethnicity. None of that mattered. He was hurt and needed help. The Samaritan seemed to be a man of means and used it to save this victim from his injuries. Instead of fussing over his own piety, he chose to love this neighbor.

Luke 10:36-37a

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

This lawyer couldn't bring himself to say "the Samaritan." Instead, he chose to say "The one who had mercy on him."

The lawyer asked who his neighbor was. He wanted to find out who he had to love. And he got his answer. He had to love people who are merciful, like the Samaritan in the story.

That wasn't actually the answer. Jesus' next few words show us that He actually told this entire story to set up a huge plot twist…

Luke 10:37b

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

It turns out that Jesus wasn't telling the lawyer to love the Samaritan. Jesus was telling the lawyer to *be* the Samaritan; to stop worrying about who he *had* to love, and show compassion and kindness to anyone who needs it.

Plot Twist

This was a shocking story. Jesus made the outsider the insider, and the insiders the outsiders. He showed that just because people see you as an insider, that doesn't mean you can't be living outside God's will. And just because people see you as an outsider, that doesn't mean you can't be living *inside* God's will.

People like this lawyer looked down on Samaritans. But Jesus made the Samaritan the hero of the story, and told the lawyer to look up to him as an example.

Jesus laid out God's law in very simple terms…

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Treat others how you want to be treated. Period. There are no exceptions. It doesn't matter who they are, what they've done, or what you've heard about them.

Conclusion

Today, we still have insiders and outsiders. I might see someone who appears to have it all together, and assume that they are in with God. Or, I might see someone who looks pretty rough and rebellious to me, so I assume that they are on the outs with God. The good news is that it's not my job, or your job, to determine who is in and who is out. That's up to God to decide. The Bible says that salvation belongs to the Lord – not us.

My job is to make sure that *I* am inside of God's will. And your job is to make sure that *you* are living inside his will. And we do that by loving God first, by loving others, and by showing compassion to those who need it.

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for teaching us how to be an insider with You.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions

1. What animal would you have as a pet if you had no limitations?
2. What was the expert in the law trying to do for himself when he asked who his neighbor was?
3. What kind of people passed by the injured man on the side of the road?
4. What kind of person stopped to take care of him?
5. How do you think that expert thought of himself when he answered correctly?
6. How can someone's selfish attitude limit their obedience?
7. When might you be needed to help someone even when it's hard?

Review Video

Memory Verse Card Game Activity:

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 (NIrV)

Printed cards are provided for the memory verse games. There are 3 stacks of cards - one is easier, one is harder, and one is words that are not in the verse to make it harder for kids as needed. See the Memory Verse Card Games Guide for a variety of games you can choose from to help your students memorize the verse in fun and interactive ways.