

Send North America: New Orleans

Kids Learning to live “life on mission” in North America

Lesson: Love unconditionally

Items needed:

- Youth, 8 or more
- Sheets of white paper, 8
- Black marker
- Tape or string
- Bible
- U.S. map

**Note: This lesson can be used with or without dramatization of “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” by the youth; however, children will likely be more engaged when youth dramatize the story as the leader tells it.*

Lesson Objective

Children will learn about NAMB’s mercy and compassion ministries and how they can show compassion to others (their neighbors) through “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” and missionary, Kay Bennett in New Orleans.

Bible Verses: Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Lesson

Jesus told many parables to illustrate His teaching. “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” illustrates well the compassionate ministry of many North American missionaries, who love their neighbors by helping to provide for their basic needs, thus earning the privilege of sharing the gospel. When believers show compassion to others, they are demonstrating a characteristic of God Himself.

Prepare

Recruit at least eight members of your church’s youth group for participation in the dramatization of “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.” On the sheets of paper, write the following with the black marker: traveler, robber (at least 2), priest, Levite, Samaritan, innkeeper, donkey. Tape the papers to the fronts of the youths’ shirts. Alternately, you can hang them with string around the necks of the youth members.

Review the parable with the youth so they can practice their parts before class time.

Place the map in a place that is handy to be used at the end of the lesson.

Visit NAMB’s mercy ministry Web page to learn more about it: namb.net/loveloud

Visit the Baptist Friendship House website to learn more about Kay Bennett and her ministry in New Orleans: baptistfriendshiphouse.org/index.html

Begin

Tell the children that they will be learning about something called compassion. Ask the children what they think that word means. After taking answers, share with them the following:

Compassion is feeling concern for the hurts of other people and helping with acts of kindness. When we have compassion, we feel sympathy for someone and then we get involved. Sometimes we get involved directly, and other times we might get involved by sending money or gifts to help people

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in need. Compassion is more than just feeling sympathy; it also involves *doing* something that helps someone else.

Jesus told a parable about a man who showed compassion in Luke 10. We call it “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.” (Paraphrase Luke 10:25-37, and have your actors ready to act out their parts.)

One day Jesus was speaking to a group of people. A Jewish man who was an expert in Jewish law, a scribe, asked Jesus a question. He asked this question mostly to try to trick Jesus.

“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” he asked.

Jesus turned the tables on the scribe by asking him to answer his own question. Jesus asked the scribe what was written in the Jewish Law. The scribe answered by citing what was written in Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus told him he was correct, but the man wanted Jesus to tell him exactly who qualified as a neighbor. He was probably hoping Jesus meant only other Jews—people like him. In response, Jesus told this parable, or story (paraphrased):

A Jewish man was traveling alone from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They beat him, robbed him and took most of his clothes. They left him half dead on the road.

A priest, who was a very important religious man at the Jewish temple, came along. He was very proud that he followed the Law to the letter. What do you think he did? (Take answers) We might think he would have stopped and had compassion for the poor wounded man, but he did not. Instead, he walked around him and went on his way.

Next, a Levite came along. Levites were also very important religious men in the Jewish temple. What do you think he did? (Take answers) We might think that he also would have stopped to help the man, but he did not. He walked around him and went on his way just as the priest had done. He did not show compassion.

Then came a Samaritan along the way. Now Jews and Samaritans did not get along at all. They were not friendly and sometimes enemies. But the Samaritan had compassion on the wounded man. He had concern for the man and responded with acts of kindness.

He bandaged the man’s wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine as medicine. Then he loaded the man on his donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he gave some money to the innkeeper, who agreed to take care of the man until he returned. The Samaritan man promised to reimburse the innkeeper whatever extra it might cost to care for the wounded man.

Then Jesus asked the scribe, “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

“The one who showed mercy to him,” he said.

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

Ask the children to name some people who are our neighbors. Guide them to conclude that everyone is our neighbor, including people we may not like or know. Jesus wants us to show Christian love and compassion to *all* people. (You may dismiss your actors.)

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Transition from the Bible story to talking about the North American Mission Board's ministry in New Orleans.

The North American Mission Board has compassion ministries all over North America to love people and to help them. NAMB calls them mercy ministries. When we show mercy we are loving people with great intensity. Missionaries have compassion on people in need by not only feeling sorry for them, but by helping to fulfill their needs.

Kay Bennett is a missionary serving in New Orleans, La. (Move to the map, and locate New Orleans in relation to your city.) Kay Bennett is the director of the Baptist Friendship House. She shows compassion specifically to women, children and homeless people through the Baptist Friendship House. At the Baptist Friendship House, women get help finishing their education and finding jobs. Children get help with their homework and have food to eat and a place to sleep. Other homeless people get socks, blankets, food and hygiene items.

Kay not only has sympathy for people who are less fortunate than she, but demonstrates compassion by doing things to help them. The biggest thing she does is to tell them that God has love and compassion for them, too. He sent Jesus to die so they could be forgiven of their sins and one day live forever with Him in heaven.

There are also people starting new churches in New Orleans. They are called church planters. New Orleans is a big city where many don't know about Jesus. Without knowing Jesus, they cannot go to heaven. Church planters start new churches in New Orleans so more people there will have an opportunity to ask Jesus to come into their lives as Savior and Lord. Helping people become friends with Jesus is an act of compassion.

For review, ask the following questions:

1. Who is your neighbor? (Everyone)
2. What is compassion? (Feeling concern for the hurts of other people and helping with acts of kindness)
3. What is the name of NAMB's compassion ministry? (Mercy ministries)

Action

What are some compassionate things we can do for people around us? What are some compassionate things we can do for people living in New Orleans?

Here are some more things we can do:

1. Pray that the people in New Orleans will seek God.
2. Pray that many people will go to New Orleans to plant churches so more people can have a church family.
3. Pray for the missionaries, church planters and their families. (To learn the names of church planters in New Orleans, visit namb.net/neworleans.)
4. Support ministry in New Orleans through our generous offerings.
5. Prepare ourselves in case God wants us to one day serve Him in New Orleans.

(See also the Missions Project document for ideas.)

Close in prayer, inviting a child to pray for the items mentioned above.

For articles, video and more information on Send North America: New Orleans, go to namb.net/neworleans.