

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 8.1: LOVE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:25-37

SUMMARY:

Love is an essential part of the human experience. And it's also the core of Christianity. In this week's reading, when Jesus was asked how to receive eternal life His response was to love. Love God and love your neighbor. The important aspects of this story are who ignored the man and who helped him. Now, the phrase "good Samaritan" is well-known and used in our culture, but most probably don't know who the Samaritans actually were. These people were despised by the Jews.

What does this teach us about love? Well, love *doesn't* ignore people in need. True love reaches across religion, race, culture, and social status. True love, exemplified by Jesus, goes beyond our friends and families to strangers, outsiders, and even our enemies. We are called to have empathy, show kindness, and treat others with dignity. Ultimately, as we demonstrate sacrificial love to others, they will be drawn to the love of God.

CORE VERSES

"So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:36-37

CORE CONCEPTS

True love is being totally committed to the betterment of another person even when difficult.

EMPATHY:

The act of understanding and experiencing the feelings and thoughts of others, whether you agree with them or not

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How did this lesson challenge you?
- To whom do you need to demonstrate love, even if it's difficult?
- What are the needs of the people around you? How can you help them?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?