Junior Soldiers

Unit 1 : Lesson 7

Love Others = Love Me

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand the importance of loving and treating others the way they want to be treated.

'Jesus said:
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment.
The second most important commandment is like this one.
And it is, "love others as much as you love yourself."
Matthew 22:37–39 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Luke 10:25–37 (CEV) and reflect on the verse above as the focus for the lesson today.

The 'good Samaritan' is a story that many children may already be familiar with and is a great way for them to understand the teaching of loving others. This is the important focus for today - not only the message that God wants us to love others as much as we love ourselves but that the children know how this can apply in their day-to-day life. Some of this understanding will come from helping them to place the story into their context; what would it look like if this story happened today? It will also be important for you to share your own experiences to help the children as they explore what it means. Loving others does not mean that we have to be best friends with everyone and hang around with them all the time. There are people in our lives that we find it difficult to spend time with, but this doesn't mean that we can't love them, want the best for them and treat them with respect - which is what we want them to do with us. Encouraging the kids to always put themselves in the other person's shoes is a helpful tool that we can teach them to apply.
For this lesson you will need to access a couple of resources from the Max7 website. This is a great website where you can find free, good quality children's ministry resources. It says:

The Max7 website features a variety of Bible resources including curriculum, videos, music, and training materials for use through children's or young people's ministry, sports or creative ministry. This worldwide partnership freely serves the work of evangelism, helping children and young people live life to the MAX, 7 days a week with Jesus – the life described in John 10:10

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Items needed for 'cooking for others'
- 'Pass the parcel' parcel with a prize that can be shared

For 'The Main Thing'

- Download 'the good Samaritan' clip from the Max7 website or set it up to play on the computer
- Download the document 'The good Samaritan for today' outline
- Basket of props for the above story
- Butchers paper
- Textas
- Camera
- A box of dress ups and props

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off a Home & Beyond card for each child.

Connecting In

Cooking for others ...

- It's always nice to receive something from someone for no particular reason.
- How do you feel when someone gives you something or shares something with you?
- Today we are going to cook something that is not for ourselves but is for someone else.
- *(Choose a simple, quick recipe that you can use for this activity, e.g. use some cookie dough from the supermarket where you just have to cut them up and put them on a tray, or make some fairy bread but use some shape cutters to cut it in a special way, perhaps hearts or stars.)*

- **Link:** 'Receiving something from someone or having them share something nice with you is always pleasant and today we have made something to give to someone else. We don't do it because we then expect something in return but we do it because God asks us to love others. This is just one way that we can show love and respect for others but today we are going to explore some other ways that this might look. Any suggestions?'

Pass the parcel ...

- For this activity you will need a parcel that has a lollypop or Freddo taped to each of the layers of paper.
- Play the music, when the music stops, the person with the parcel needs to choose someone else to take the treat and the parcel and then the game starts again with the new person.
- The game finishes with someone getting the last layer and the final prize (this needs to be something that can be shared, e.g. a bag of Freddos or a page of stickers or little bouncy balls etc).
  - → 'This is a fabulous prize for sharing. Do you think you might like to share this with the others in the group?'

- **Link:** Sharing and giving to others is not always an easy thing to do but what would you want others to do for you?
  - → How did you feel when you couldn't have the treat on the layer of the parcel and needed to pass it on to someone else?
  - → How did you feel when someone passed their parcel and treat on to you?

- Sharing and giving to others is just one way to show love and respect, today we are going to explore some other ways that this might look.

The Main Thing

The Good Samaritan…

- Watch the 'good Samaritan' clip that you will fi nd on the Max7 website. You can download this and then play it on a big screen or if you have a small group then you can just play it straight from the website:
- **http://www.max7.org/resource.aspx?id=2defafcc-c191-4314-81c4-78ce0d07526a**
- Sit in a circle and share the story set out below also from the max7 website. Ask some of the questions outlined at the end of the document.
- See also 'The good Samaritan told for today' at: **http://www.max7.org/resource.aspx?id=18b22c57-3210-4596-9172-0a0fb2106748**
- *(If you have trouble with the above links go to www.max7.org and put 'The Good Samaritan' in the search box and you will find a number of resources come up. One will be the animated clip and one will be 'The Good Samaritan told for today').*

- Depending on the size of your group you might like to divide into two or three groups for this activity.
- Read 'the good Samaritan' together - Luke 10:25-37 (CEV) and Matthew 22:37-39(CEV)
- Each group is to write their own version of 'the good Samaritan' set in today. Questions to consider:
  - → What are the key elements of the story?
  - → Who are the key characters? Who might they be in today's society?
  - → Where is the story going to be set?
  - → What props might you need?

- When each group has created their story, they then need to choose how they are going to communicate it. They can choose to draw key storyboards that will tell the story and then narrate it, or they can choose to set up and take still photos of the key parts of the story and then show them to the rest of the group and narrate it.
- These can also be shared in worship with the rest of the church community. It is a great way for the Junior Soldiers to bring something to worship as well as for the church to support and encourage them.

Tying In

- Get each group to share their version of the 'good Samaritan' story.
- Questions:
  - → Thinking about how you treat others. Who do you see yourself as in the story?
  - → Is it always easy to love others? Why/why not?
  - → How do you want to be treated by others?
  - → Do you think that you can treat others this way too?
  - → What is something you might need to change in your attitude or how you treat others this week?

- Sit in a circle (everyone included) and pray for the person on your left.

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer question or complete activities each week.

- Home is an important place to show love to each other. Even though we are family and love and care for each other, at times we may not treat each other the way we want to be treated.

- Have a discussion together about how each of you like to be treated at home:
  - → How do you like to be treated? What makes you happy when people treat you a certain way?
  - → After listening to each other, think about one thing that you might want to change in your attitude or how you treat some of the people in your family.



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