

Who's Your Neighbor?



MAIN POINT

Our love is not the Savior — it's the sign that points to Him.

MAIN BIBLE VERSE

John 6:1-15 (highlight vv. 35)

Students will understand that compassion is powerful but incomplete without the Gospel, and they will be challenged to let their lives intentionally point others to Jesus.

Teaching Script / Guide

HOOK:

- **Quick poll of the room...**
 - What is the point of being nice?
 - Think about it... if the point of Christianity is just to be kind, help people, and do good, how are we any different from any decent human?
 - There has to be more... and there is....

SCRIPTURE:

- **READ or SUMMARIZE JOHN 6 – JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000**
 - Jesus is teaching a huge crowd – 5,000 men, plus women and children.
 - They're hungry and the disciples say, "Send them away". But Jesus gives them the task of feeding them.
 - The problem is they only have five loaves of bread and two fish.
 - But then Jesus takes it, blesses it, and multiplies it.
 - This was a miracle! But John, all throughout His gospel, uses miracles as signs that point to something greater, and Jesus reveals that Himself.
 - In John 6:35, Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life."
 - The physical bread met their physical need, but it was a sign to them of how Jesus wanted to meet their deepest spiritual needs as well.

TENSION

- **Here's the potential danger for us today:**
 - **We can serve, invite, be kind, stand up for people, be inclusive...** and never talk about Jesus.
 - **We can be known as the "nice church kids" but not "the Jesus people" or the Kingdom of God.**
 - Kindness without Christ just becomes reputation management.

- Compassion without the Gospel becomes incomplete.
- Helping someone feel better is not the same as pointing them towards the one who can heal their souls.
- Think about what we've talked about this whole series – Loving your neighbor.
 - With the parable of the Good Samaritan, we saw that true love is willing to get involved.
 - We unpacked how Jesus stepped in to help us when we couldn't help ourselves.
 - We talked about the Woman at the Well last week as an example of how the Gospel tears down walls.
 - In each of these instances, the goal is Jesus. He is the one who saves, heals, and restores. Kindness is just a tool we use to get others' attention long enough to point them to Him.
 - Our kindness is just a loaf of bread in the hands of Jesus.

APPLICATION

- **So how can we be people whose love and kindness matter in the most significant way?**
 - **Check your motive:**
 - Do you love to look good?
 - Or because Jesus has changed you?
 - **Don't hide the source**
 - When someone asks why you care or why you're inclined towards them, tell them.
 - It doesn't have to be weird or forced. Just honest.
 - "Jesus changed me."
 - **Invite them to know the source as well**
 - Kindness opens doors. Conversations can point people home.
 - Evangelism isn't pressure. It's clarity.
 - You are not the Savior. You're the sign.

INVITATION

- **There are two groups in the room**
 - **Those who have accepted Jesus and their lives should point to Him**
 - **Those who haven't, and you're still hungry.**
- Jesus didn't just feed the crowds. He came to save hearts.
- If you've never put your trust in Him, this is your moment.

LAND THE POINT

- The crowd ate bread that day, but only some received Jesus
 - Don't stop at the bread. Point people to the Bread of Life and accept it.
 - Be the sign.
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