

Who's Your Neighbor?



MAIN POINT

Jesus came to rescue us when we couldn't rescue ourselves.

MAIN BIBLE VERSE

Romans 5:8

Students will understand the core message of the Gospel — that we are separated from God because of sin, that Jesus paid the price for us, and that salvation is received through faith — and be given a clear opportunity to respond.

Teaching Script / Guide

HOOK:

- **Last week, we looked at a story Jesus told called The Good Samaritan.**
 - If you weren't here, here's what happened:
 - A man was traveling on a dangerous road.
 - He was attacked, robbed, and left on the side of the road — hurt and unable to help himself.
 - Two religious leaders walked by.
 - They saw him.
 - They kept walking.
 - But then a Samaritan — someone people normally didn't like or trust — stopped.
 - He cared for the man.
 - He paid for him.
 - He rescued him.
 - And we learned that Jesus calls us to be like the Samaritan — to love people, even when it's uncomfortable.
- **But today, I want to look at that same story from a different angle.**
 - What if... we're not the Samaritan?
 - What if we're the person on the side of the road?
 - The one who can't fix ourselves.
 - The one who needs help.
 - Before we can truly love our neighbor, we have to understand how much we need rescuing, too.
 - The Bible is extremely clear that that is exactly the place we are in or have been in at one point.

SCRIPTURE:

- **READ Romans 5:8**

- You know what this verse teaches: That all of us, at one point, were like the man on the side of the road. Except we weren't crippled and broken because someone had beaten us, but we were broken down and defeated by sin.
- For those of you who don't know, sin is anything in our lives that goes against God's original design.
 - God designed us to thrive, and that happens when we live life His way, but sin is choosing to say, "Not your way, God. I'm going to do my own thing!"
 - And let's be honest... it feels good for a while. It doesn't feel like we're broken or hurting.
 - But the Bible teaches that our sin gives us a fate worse than being a little beat up. The Bible actually teaches that sin kills us. It leaves us dead.
 - And if the injured man needed someone to step in, how much more do we need someone to step in and save us from death? How much more do we need a Savior?

TENSION

- **Here's the hard part:**

- Most people believe one of two things:
 - "I'm not that bad."
 - "I'm too messed up for God to want me."
- The Gospel says that both of those are wrong.
 - The unfortunate truth is
 - You are more broken than you think
 - But the Good News is
 - You are more loved than you realize.
- Jesus didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up because He knows we never could.
 - Instead, He stepped in.
 - Just like the Samaritan paid the cost, Jesus paid ours.
 - Not with money, but with His own life.

CLEAR GOSPEL PRESENTATION:

- **Keep it simple and concrete. You can say something like...**

- **God Created You**
 - You were made to know Him.
 - **Sin Separates**
 - We chose our way instead of His.
 - **Jesus Stepped In and did what we never could:**
 - He lived perfectly.
 - He died on the cross.
 - He rose again.
 - He took the punishment we deserved.
 - **We Respond**
 - **Salvation is not earned. It's received.**
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- You don't work for it.
- You trust Him for it.
 - Ephesians 2:8–9 (brief reference)

RESPONSE TIME:

- Slow the room down and speak clearly:
 - Some of you:
 - Know about Jesus.
 - Have heard the stories.
 - Try to be good.
 - But you've never actually trusted Him.
 - Following Jesus doesn't start with being nicer. It starts with believing He rescued you when you could do nothing to rescue yourself.
- Invite them to:
 - Admit they need Him
 - Believe He died for them
 - Choose to follow Him
- Give quiet space.
- Offer prayer guidance.

APPLICATION // LAND THE POINT

- If you trust Jesus, you don't love your neighbor to earn God's love. You love because you've **RECEIVED** God's love.
 - The Gospel changes everything.
 - It changes how you see God and how you see others.
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