

Who's Your Neighbor?



MAIN POINT

Our love isn't just to make us look good. It's meant to point others to Jesus.

MAIN BIBLE VERSE

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

Students will understand that good deeds are not the goal — they are meant to point people to Jesus and the new life He offers.

Teaching Script / Guide

HOOK:

- Quick poll of the room...
 - Why do people do good/nice things?
 - To be nice?
 - To get credit?
 - To feel good?
 - To post about it?
 - How many of you know that sometimes we can do the right thing for the wrong reason?
 - Here's what I want us to think about today:
 - Each of us probably wants to be kind... but what if being kind isn't the finish line?

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.

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TENSION

- Here's what we can often misunderstand:
 - We can think:
 - "The goal in life is to be nice."
 - But kindness by itself doesn't save anyone.
 - Being generous doesn't forgive sin.
 - Helping someone with homework doesn't give them eternal life.
 - Good deeds matter, but they are not the finish line.
 - Instead, they are signs that point somewhere.
 - If someone only remembers "they were nice" but never hears about Jesus, the one who is the very definition of love itself, we fall short if we only stop at the bread.

APPLICATION

- When we include someone, help someone, invite someone, stand up for someone, or willingly choose to love our neighbor. We don't just do it to look good. We do it because Jesus changes us.
 - And then, we look for opportunities to explain that to others.
- Kindness is the tool God uses to open doors so that we can tell others the truth about Jesus.
- In this series that's all about loving your neighbor, the goal is not just to do nice things so we can feel good about ourselves, but rather to live and reveal the love of Jesus so that others can experience it too.

// LAND THE POINT

- **Jesus didn't just come to feed people... He came to rescue them.**
 - Love is a powerful thing, but it is not the Savior they need. Jesus is.
 - Our job is to be the sign. Just like the bread was a symbol of something greater, our acts of love and service should point others to Him.
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