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He showed us how to love God ... and to love others *more than ourselves.*

Inspire (for parents)

WWJD? What Would Jesus Do? This catchy phrase became popular in the '90s. WWJD was on bracelets, bumper stickers, and coworkers' coffee mugs. It started with a youth group from the Calvary Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan. Inspired by the 1896 Charles Sheldon book *In His Steps*, which asks the same question, the youth group began to apply this question to the everyday choices in their lives.

I was raising my three children during the decade when WWJD became a household phrase. I must admit that as a parent, it was a wonderful question to ask in numerous situations. When my children were selfish and put their own needs in front of someone else, "WWJD?" was all I would have to say and they would pause to ponder if their actions and Jesus' response matched up.

Unfortunately, I can clearly remember hearing, "Mom, Kyle's not doing what Jesus would do!" I would have to remind my daughter at that point that most likely Jesus wouldn't be tattling either.

My daughter was missing something important. To do what Jesus would, you

need His heart, His priorities, and His attitudes. In John 13, Jesus tells us to love one another "as I have loved you." And, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

What did Jesus do? He did what needed to be done—He demonstrated God's perfect love by laying down His life for us. He showed us how to love God with our whole being and to love others more than ourselves. So, What Would Jesus Do in any and all situations? He would love, and He wants us to do the same.

by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37

(The Good Samaritan)

Main Point: Jesus Tells Us How to Love
This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church.** Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

Whenever Jesus spoke, He modeled love in His words and actions. In Luke 10, a lawyer challenges Jesus with the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responds in a fashion typical of lawyers and scribes discussing points of law: "What is your reading of it?" The lawyer responds with the only possible correct answer based on an accurate interpretation of the law and quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." When Jesus affirms his answer, the lawyer feels he must justify why his actions do not correspond with what he knows is truth. And so, he asks, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus does not directly respond to this question. Instead, He tells a parable that illustrates the truth as stated in the law—what it means to love God and love others. The parable of the good Samaritan is one of the parables taught by Jesus that is concrete enough for even young children to understand.

This parable would have been highly controversial to first-century Israelites. Samaritans were a mixed culture—Jewish and Gentile. Therefore, to consider camaraderie between Israelites and Samaritans was unthinkable. To cast the Samaritan as the hero in the story, as Jesus did, would have made His point about the nature of God's mercy even more dramatic. Jesus was calling the Jewish people to love others radically, leaving behind their preconceived ideas and misconceptions, in order to glorify His kingdom.

REMEMBER VERSE

Serve one another in love.
Galatians 5:13b

Support (for parents & kids)

> **JUST FOR FUN** this week, act out the parable of the good Samaritan. Have one person lie down pretending to be injured. Have family members walk by ignoring the injured person. Then choose someone to play the Good Samaritan and stop to help the injured person. If your family is small, you can even take turns and have the same person play all three roles: the priest, the Levite, and the Good Samaritan. When you're finished acting out this part of The Big God Story, ask your children which of the three they think did the right thing. Talk about who showed love and how they showed it.

Together, read the account of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10:25–37**. Discuss some ways that as a family you can show love to others.

Share with your children that what they just heard from the Bible is part of The Big God Story, and they'll hear more about in church this week. Pray and thank Jesus that He tells us how to love others.

