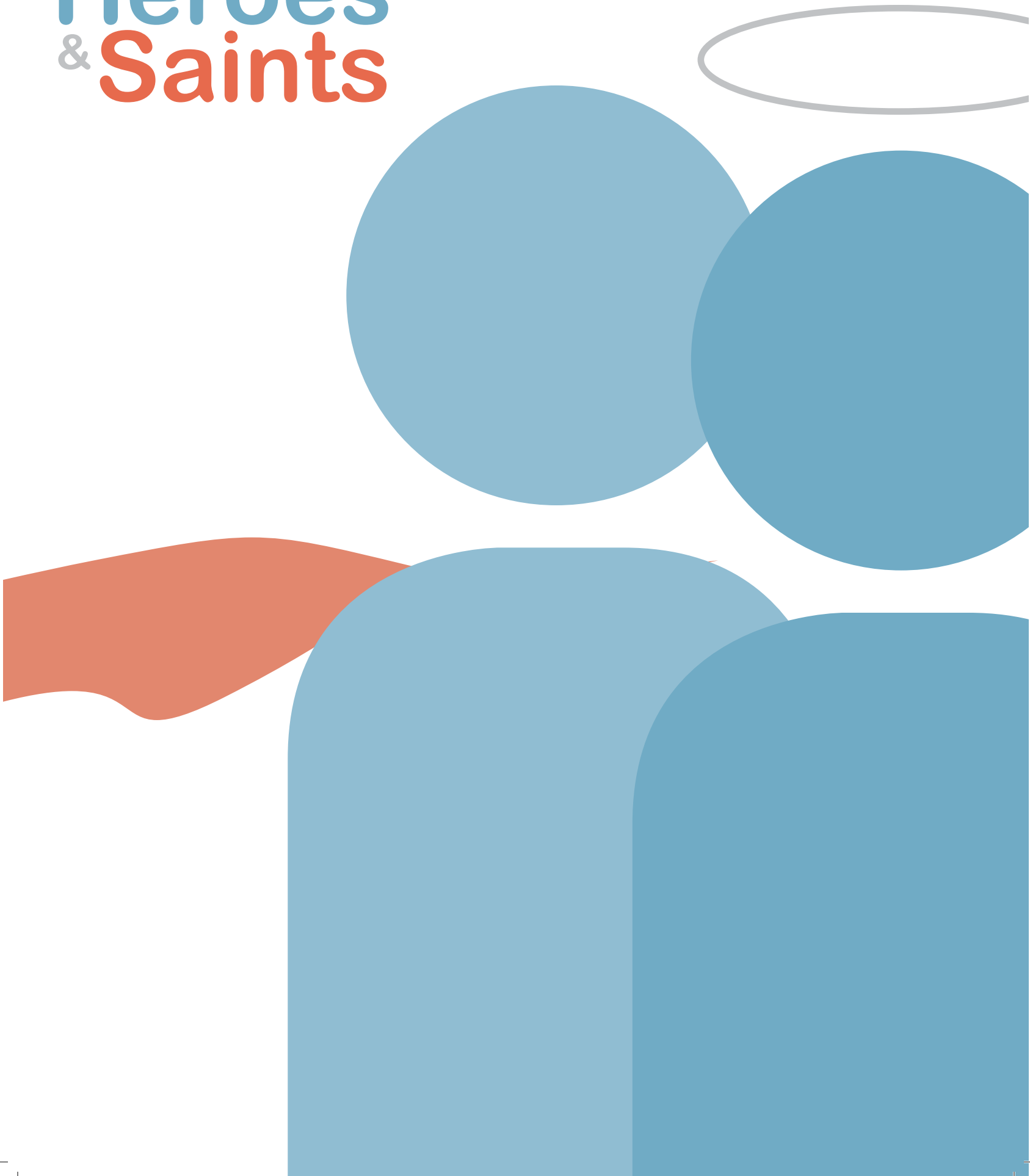


Northland, A Church Distributed Curriculum

# Heroes & Saints





# Heroes & Saints

While real life heroes might be hard to find today, they are still a focus of literature and media. Superheroes are the subject of movies and TV series alike. The main point of this study is that while it is wonderful to be a hero, it is better to be a saint. The Good Samaritan was a hero when he stopped to help an injured man along a dangerous, deserted road. But it was the saint in him who not only bound up the man's wounds, but followed through to make sure he was cared for until he was well. The Samaritan's kindness did not end with one random act on the Jericho road. It accompanied him everywhere he went. It was a part of his character. That is the mark of a saint.

It is easy to be a hero and get lots of acclaim. But to be a saint requires more of us. For starters, it can't be about us. Saints spend more time in the trenches than in the spotlight. They clothe themselves in humility, not flashy costumes. Saints look to God as their superpower, not their own abilities.

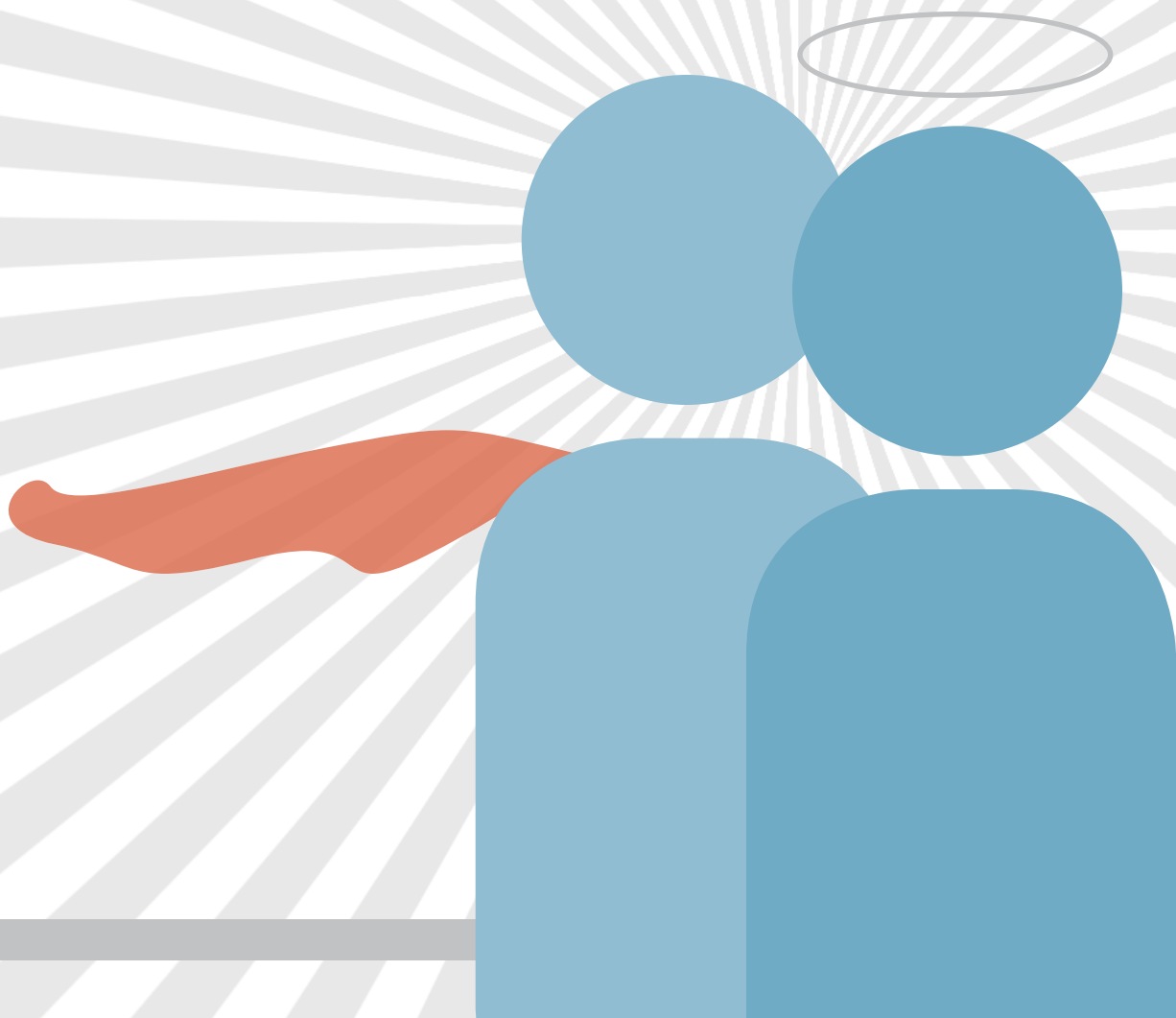
And at the end of the day, isn't that what's truly heroic?

read on

Oswald Chambers said,

“If a person is  
born from above,  
he does not have  
to try to be a  
saint...

...he  
cannot  
help but  
be one.”



# The Story of a Hero

Everyone loves a good story — the “once upon a time” that gets our imagination going, the bad guy we all love to hate that gets our blood pumping, the happily-ever-after ending that is so satisfying. But there is nothing better than a story about a hero or a saint to inspire us.

For the next few weeks, we will be focusing on a story that Jesus told. In fact, this was a story that Jesus used to answer a very difficult question.

## Day 1

Have you ever been fooled by a trick question? Try these:

- What 11-letter word does every straight-A student spell incorrectly?
- If Mr. Smith’s peacock lays an egg in Mr. Jones’s yard, who owns the egg?
- If there are six apples, and you take away four, how many do you have?
- If you had only one match, and you entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some newspaper and some kindling wood, which would you light first?

1. Jesus was always being asked difficult questions. Read **Luke 10:25-37** to see the tricky question He was asked. Who approached Jesus?
  - ☐ A Samaritan
  - ☐ An innkeeper
  - ☐ A disciple
  - ☐ A lawyer
2. What tricky question did he ask?
  - ☐ Do I really have to keep all Ten Commandments?
  - ☐ How can I have eternal life?
  - ☐ Are you really the Son of God?
  - ☐ How can I avoid hell?
3. Why do you think he asked it?
  - ☐ He really wanted to know the answer.
  - ☐ He was curious about Jesus.
  - ☐ He was hoping to find a loophole in the law.
  - ☐ He wanted to catch Jesus saying something wrong so he could use it against Him.
4. Since Jesus knew this man’s heart, He knew how to handle him. He even got the man to answer his own question in verse 27. What was his answer?
  - ☐ Love God and others with all you’ve got.
  - ☐ Keep up a good front.
  - ☐ Live a perfect life.
  - ☐ Memorize the law inside and out.

\* Answers to the trick questions:

1. Incorrectly. 2. Peacocks don't lay eggs. 3. Four. 4. The match. \* Courtesy of <http://eluzions.com/Puzzles/Trick/>

5. What do you think it looks like to love God with all your heart?
6. Based on this answer, do you think that Jesus is looking for heroes or saints?
7. What is the difference?

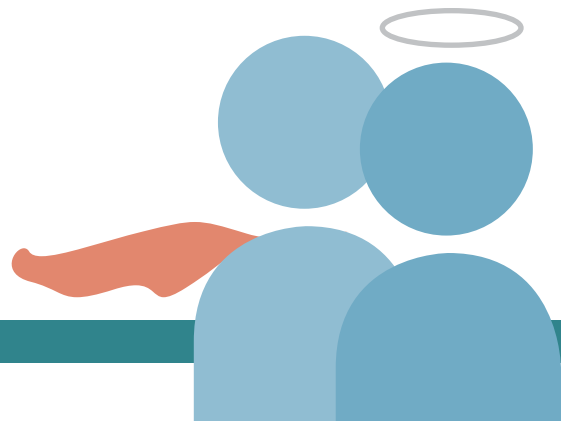
## Day 2

1. Still, the man wouldn't give up. He prompted Jesus further. What did he ask next?
  - ☐ How can I love God with all my heart?
  - ☐ How can I be your disciple?
  - ☐ Who's my neighbor?
  - ☐ Are you impressed with me?
2. Why did he ask that question, according to verse 29?
3. Have you ever wanted to find an easy way around God's commands, rather than really know what He wants from you?
4. Together, these two commandments sum up all of God's commands. Look back at the original 10 in **Exodus 20:1-17**. In the blanks below, write a "G" for the commandments that fall under "loving God," and an "N" for those that fall under "loving your Neighbor."
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not have any other gods but me.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not steal.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not tell lies about your neighbor.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not worship idols.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Keep the Sabbath day holy as a day of rest.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Honor your father and mother.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not murder.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not commit adultery.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Do not set your heart on your neighbor's belongings.

## Making It Personal

Jesus was more concerned about the young man's heart than his perfect behavior. None of us can ever obey all of God's commandments and live perfect lives. But if we want to get by more than we want to know and please Him, He knows that. We need to be honest with Him. God doesn't want to play games with us.

So don't bother with the tricky questions!



# An Unlikely Hero

>> "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him [the injured man].  
When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him."  
— Luke 10:33 (The Message)

Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? Someone that you had never even met before? While that can be dangerous in the world we live in, it was also dangerous in Jesus' day.

## Day 1

1. In this story, what happened to the man traveling down the road to Jericho?
  - ☐ He fell into a deep pit.
  - ☐ He got lost.
  - ☐ He had a heart attack.
  - ☐ He was robbed, stripped, and beaten.
2. If there was ever a need for a hero to come save the day, this was it. What three people came across the injured man that day?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Of those three people, who did you think would be most likely to help out? Why?
4. What made the Samaritan an unlikely hero? (Check all that apply.)
  - ☐ Jews hated Samaritans and considered them their enemies.
  - ☐ It was risky for a Samaritan to travel this road.
  - ☐ The Samaritan should have demanded a reward, but didn't.
  - ☐ No one would expect a Samaritan to be kinder than a priest.
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the Samaritan do when he saw the injured man?
  - ☐ He waited with him until someone with medical training arrived.
  - ☐ He cleaned him up and left him to walk home alone.
  - ☐ He bandaged his wounds and took him where he could be well-cared for.
  - ☐ He gave him the name of a good lawyer.
6. Think about what you would have done if you had passed by that day. What are you willing to risk to help someone else? Would you risk being made fun of? Would you risk going hungry? Would you risk not being appreciated?



## Day 2

1. Jesus told this story to the expert lawyer to answer his earlier question. What was it?  
☐ How do I get to Heaven?  
☐ Who's my neighbor?  
☐ What makes Samaritans so special?  
☐ What is the greatest commandment?
2. What message do you think Jesus was trying to get across? (Check all that apply.)  
☐ Each of us is able to love our neighbor, even if that neighbor is supposed to be our enemy.  
☐ Priests and Levites make lousy neighbors.  
☐ Your neighbor is anyone God puts in your path.  
☐ Sometimes loving your neighbor costs you.  
☐ If you're traveling to Jericho, bring a bodyguard.  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What made the Samaritan a good role model as a neighbor?
4. What are some reasons why he might have decided to pass by, like the priest and Levite?
5. Name one of the heroes in your life. What makes that person a hero?
6. Has this lesson changed the way you think of heroes?  
☐ yes ☐ no

## Making It Personal

In the column on the left, list three people in your life that you wouldn't ordinarily think of as your neighbors. Then, in the column on the right, list one way that you could "love that person as yourself."

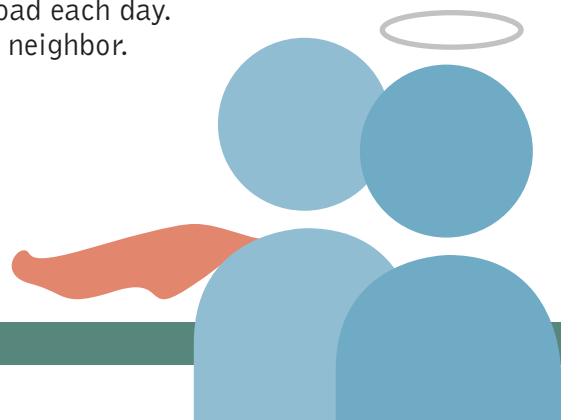
### My Neighbors

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

### Loving My Neighbor

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

These are just a few of the people you pass by on your road each day.  
Ask God to show you other ways that you can be a good neighbor.  
Ask Him for the courage to follow through. It's heroic.



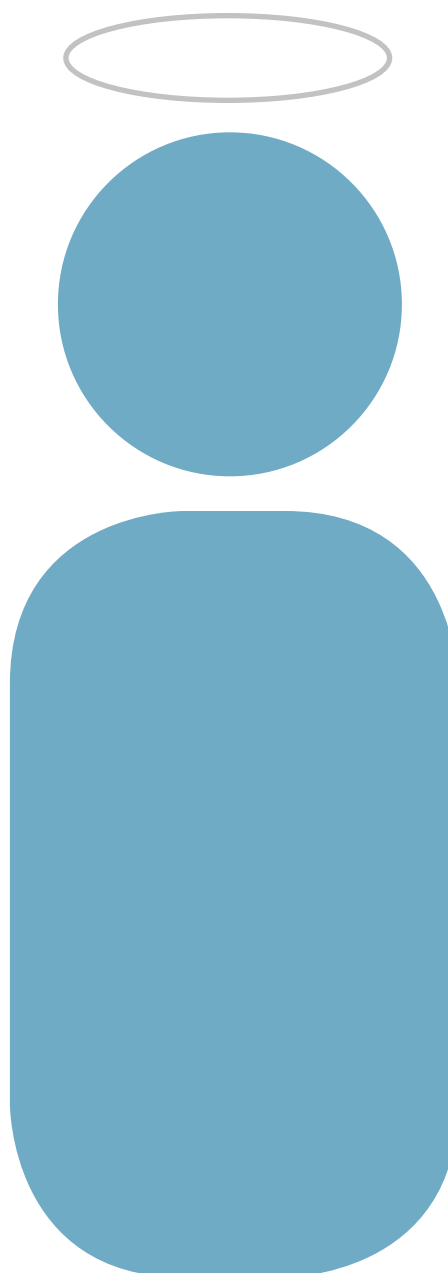
# Love Is a Verb

What good would it do you to have an amazing car, but keep it in your driveway? Or what if you were to keep it full of gas, but never start it? Or what if you had a cell phone that you carried with you all the time but never answered?

In the same way, as God's children, we have an amazing privilege and purpose. We have experienced God's love and have access to it. The natural result of that should be love in action. Just as in the story of the Good Samaritan (**Luke 10:30-35**), actions speak louder than words. Reread these verses to answer the following questions.

## Day 1

- What does it mean to love your neighbor?
  - ☐ To have warm feelings toward someone all the time
  - ☐ To want to marry him/her
  - ☐ To treat someone the way you'd like to be treated
  - ☐ To always be saying, "I love you"
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- List below as many action verbs as you can find in **Luke 10:30-35**. Then circle the verbs that are examples of love in action.
- In the blanks below, mark whether the sentence best describes the lawyer ("L"), the Good Samaritan ("S"), or the priest ("P") in this story. (There may be more than one right answer!)
  - \_\_\_ He cared more about his own needs than the needs of others.
  - \_\_\_ He never would have thought of a Samaritan as his neighbor.
  - \_\_\_ He put another person's needs first.
  - \_\_\_ He was more comfortable talking about love than living it out.
  - \_\_\_ He loved the injured man through his actions.
- What lesson(s) did the lawyer need to learn about love? (Check all that apply.)
  - ☐ Love is for everyone, not just your friends.
  - ☐ Love is the greatest commandment.
  - ☐ Loving your neighbor is easy.
  - ☐ Love isn't just words; it's action.
- What do you learn from this story about love?
- Where could you apply that lesson to your life today? Do it, and then record the result.



## Day 2

The road to Jericho was very dangerous. Robbers often would pretend to be wounded so that travelers would leave the road and come to help. This shows how risky it was for the Samaritan to stop and help a stranger.

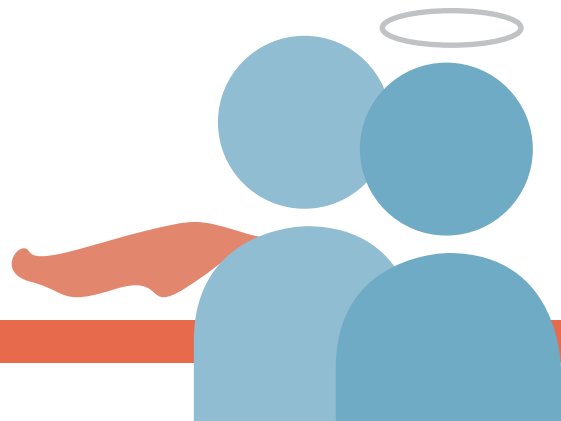
1. What fears might have kept the Samaritan from taking action and serving the injured man?
2. What fears keep you from helping others in need? (Check all that apply.)
  - ☐ Fear of not knowing what to do
  - ☐ Fear of failure
  - ☐ Fear of rejection
  - ☐ Fear of hidden dangers
  - ☐ Fear of getting too involved
  - ☐ Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_
3. What advice do we find in **Psalm 56:3-4** about facing our fears?
  - ☐ Run! Hide! Now!
  - ☐ Put your trust in God, since He is the One in control.
  - ☐ If you pretend you're not afraid, you won't be.
  - ☐ Fear is normal.
4. The Good Samaritan didn't let fear hold him back, and he didn't offer excuses. **1 John 3:18** (NIV) tells us that love should not just be \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What do you learn from this verse?
  - ☐ Don't ever tell someone you love him/her.
  - ☐ It's better to tell someone you love him/her than to show it.
  - ☐ You should only love dear little children.
  - ☐ If you love someone, it will show.

6. Name one way that God showed His love for you through His actions.

Loving your neighbor through your actions isn't easy. Sometimes, like the Samaritan, you may have a chance to step off the beaten path while everyone else keeps walking. Remember: Jesus is walking right alongside you. Take time to show His love to someone else.

## Making It Personal

God has provided you with the tools you need to actively serve others. Make a list of the particular abilities He has given you that you can use to help others. Ask Him to help you put those tools to good use as you go about your daily life.



## Saints Stick Around

>> "The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"  
— Luke 10:35

No one likes missing the end of a movie. How would you ever know how the story turned out? When we don't follow up with the people we've helped, it's like leaving the theater halfway through the show. Stick around, and you just might see something awesome God is doing and how you can continue to be a part of it!

### Day 1

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself on your ability to follow through, or to complete tasks once you start them?  

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I never follow through.			I sometimes follow through.				I always follow through.		
- When it comes to loving and helping others, what does it mean to follow through or finish strong? (Check all that apply.)  
☐ Keep in touch with the people you've had an opportunity to help.  
☐ Forget about your neighbor and move on to the next project.  
☐ Continue to encourage and pray for people.  
☐ Ask people to pay you back for the way you served them.
- How important do you think follow-through is when helping others? Why?  

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not important at all			Sometimes important				Very important		
- Turn back to **Luke 10:30-35**. What did the Samaritan tell the innkeeper before he left?  
☐ Nice knowing you.  
☐ I've done all I can; it's your turn now.  
☐ Does your inn have a pool?  
☐ Look after my friend, and I'll pay you back.
- What did it cost the Samaritan to follow up with the injured man? (Check all that apply.)  
☐ Nothing  
☐ Two silver coins  
☐ A return trip on a dangerous road  
☐ His time  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

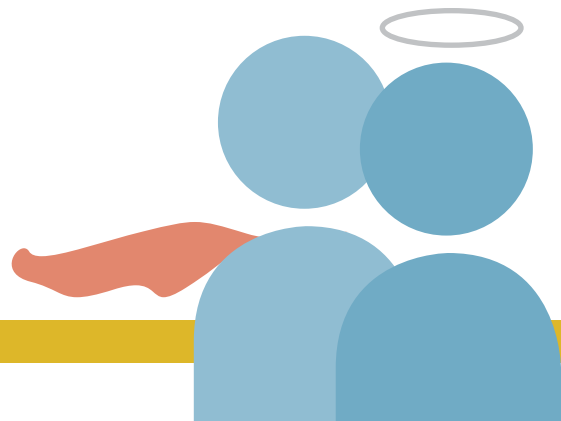
Helping others doesn't end on the Jericho road. When we follow up with the people God has brought into our lives, we see Jesus at work. It changes us.

## Day 2

1. Name three distractions that can keep us from following through with our neighbors.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. While it isn't possible to follow through with everyone we help every time, what is a healthy attitude about following through with others?  
☐ I'd better follow through with all of my neighbors, or God won't be pleased with me.  
☐ I want to be ready to bless others where I can with the resources God has given me.  
☐ Following through is a pain, but I'll do it if I have to.  
☐ Who said anything about follow-through?
3. Jesus gave the expert lawyer a lot to think about through this story. He even helped him answer his own question in **Luke 10:37**. So who was a neighbor to the injured man after all?  
☐ The one who passed him by.  
☐ The one who cared more about his own safety.  
☐ The one who showed him kindness.  
☐ The one who robbed him.
4. Who do you relate to the most in this story?  
☐ The lawyer — It is easier for me to talk about love than to demonstrate it.  
☐ The priest or Levite — When I see someone in need, I am tempted to pass him by.  
☐ The Samaritan — My heart goes out to people in need; I like to take action right away.  
☐ The wounded man — I am hurting and wish someone would see my needs and help me.
5. Where would you most like to grow in serving others?  
☐ Seeing the needs around you  
☐ Doing what you can to help  
☐ Finding partners to help you serve  
☐ Following up with the people you've helped

## Making It Personal

Follow-through is often the best way we can demonstrate our care and concern for other people. While saints can be heroes, the difference is that saints are not in it for themselves, but they are in it for the long haul. A saint is anyone who faithfully loves and serves God. Ask God to help you to be faithful to Him and to the people He puts in your path.



# NOTES

# NOTES

The background of the entire page is a pattern of numerous thin, light gray lines that radiate outwards from a central point located just above the middle of the page. These lines create a sunburst or starburst effect, filling the entire frame. In the center of this pattern is a solid orange-red rectangular box containing white text.

Northland, A Church Distributed  
530 Dog Track Road  
Longwood, FL 32750

Phone 407-949-4000

[northlandchurch.net](http://northlandchurch.net)