

Application - The whole point of studying the Bible is taking lessons from what we read and thinking about how we can apply them to our lives. Here are a few suggested questions for your discussion:

The young lawyer knew the answer to the question that Jesus asked - "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." How do you think Jesus' response with the parable of the good Samaritan challenged this young man?

Who is our neighbor today? How are we commanded to treat them? How does this impact their view of us as Christians?

Can your neighbor be someone in your house? Someone who is your family member? How are we told to treat our family?



Action - As a family think of two ideas:

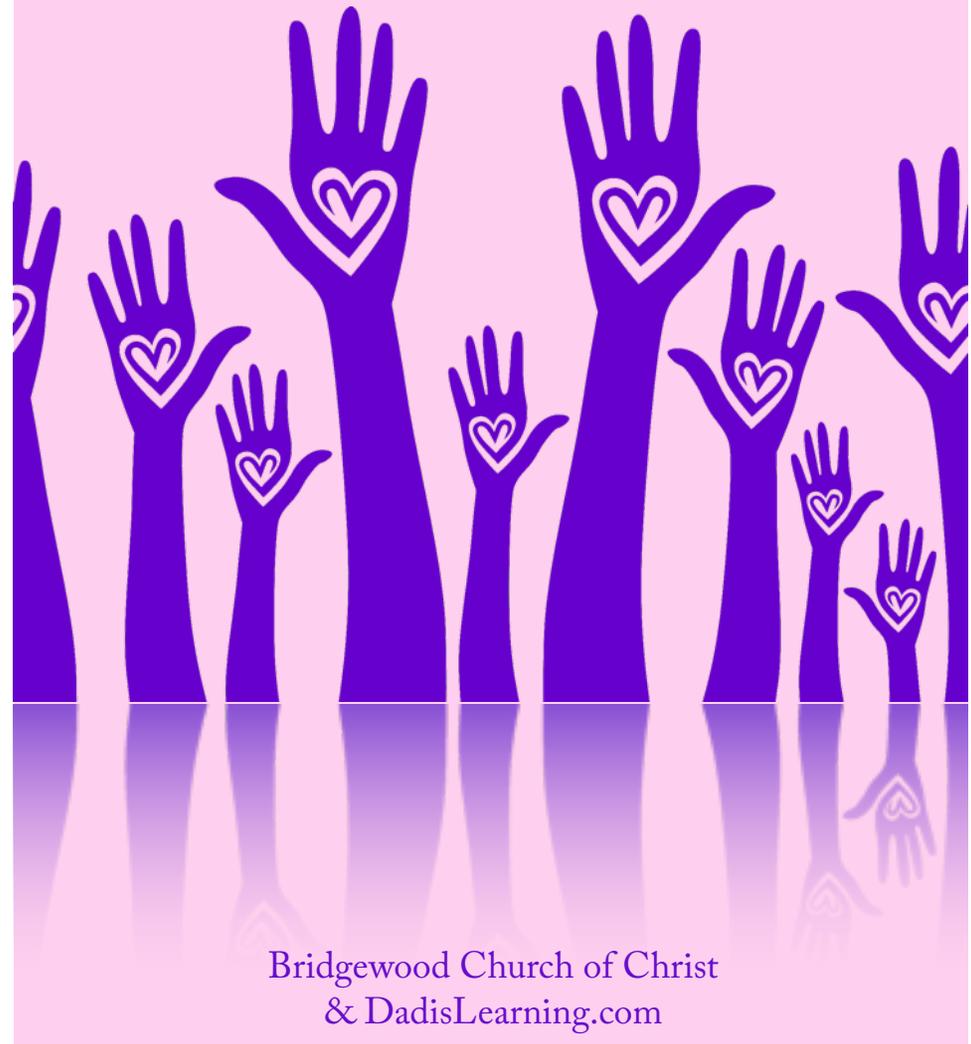
1. What can we do as a family to better show each other how much we love each other?
2. What is something we can do for a friend, neighbor or stranger to encourage them or help them?

*Close your time together in prayer.*

# Little Hands, Big Hearts

## *Devotionals for the Family*

*Week 1: They'll Know We Are Christians*



Bridgewood Church of Christ  
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Getting started - Find a place in the house that is comfortable and free from distractions. Some suggestions include sitting around the kitchen table or sitting on the floor around a coffee table. Kids and adults should turn their phones off to avoid any buzzes, rings or vibrations during devo time. Set a length of time for your devo. Begin your devotional with a short time of prayer.

Intro thought - Many church song books have a hymn titled, "They'll Know We Are Christians" that was written by Peter Scholtes. The hymn extols the virtues of unity, love, prayer and praise. As Christians these are important things to do, but as a family it is even more important that these things are done together at home for the people we live with everyday.

The refrain of the song says...

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love."

We all understand the importance of showing our love to others as Christians, but do we remember to show love to our family members on a daily basis?

Action: Go around the table, each person taking a turn, telling something that you have done or could do to show your love and appreciation for a family member. (If you have younger kids, help them think of things that they have done. Give everyone a chance to share as much or as little as they like.)

Some of the things that we do are simple tasks that might get taken for granted in the daily grind of life. It is good to take time and think about the things that we do as a family, for each other, that show how much we care for and love each other.

Action: Invite each family member to express their appreciation to the family as a whole or individuals for things they have done that make them feel loved.

**Check your time.** Some families will spend their entire planned time on the intro thought. Others will still have plenty of time left. It is important to stick to the time limit that you have agreed upon as a family for your devotional.

Bible says - Make sure everyone has a Bible to read, preferably a print edition. We are going to be looking at a very familiar passage from the Bible for our study - Luke 10:25-37. Ask someone to read the passage for your family. If you have young children make sure you paraphrase the parable where appropriate and that they understand the terms. Here are a few terms from the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible that you might want to help young readers with:

*Samaritan* - A group of people who the Jews did not get along with. When Jesus told this parable and made the Samaritan the 'good guy' it would have been a shock to the people he was talking with.

*Eternal life* - Depending on the age of your kids, this may be a term they don't understand. Explain to them that the man is asking about heaven.

*the Law* - Make sure younger children know that the man was asking about the Law of Moses, the Old Law that the Israelites were under.

*Priest, Levite* - Depending on their background, a good number of young children wouldn't know who these men are. You could simply describe them as special servants of God or people who should have known that God wanted them to stop and help the Samaritan man who had been hurt.

*Denarii* - A denarius is estimated to be a day's wage for a worker.

*Mercy* - Take time to make sure they understand this term.