



# ROOTED IN FAITH

**Theme:** God encourages us to respond to the needs of those who are hurting

**Bible Story:** *The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)*

**Leader:**

Good morning, friends! Have you ever gotten hurt and needed someone to help you? Maybe you fell on the playground, or you were feeling sad, and someone gave you a hug?

*(Let children respond.)*

Did you know that Jesus tells a story about someone who got hurt and needed help?

One day, Jesus told a story called a parable to teach people how to love others. He said that a man was walking on a road when some people came and hurt him. They left him all alone. That man needed help badly.

The first person who came by was someone you'd think would stop to help. He was a priest, but he walked right by. Then another important person came, a Levite, and he didn't stop either. But then, a man from a different place, someone the hurt man didn't even know, stopped. This man was called a Samaritan. Even though they were very different and might not usually be friends, the Samaritan saw that the man was hurt and said, "I will help."

He cleaned his wounds, put him on his donkey, and took him somewhere safe.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

This month we as a church, are sharing stories from one of our mission partners, Thornwell.

Let me tell you about two girls named Kisha and Tanisha. They were very sad and hurting inside because of some bad things that had happened in their lives. They needed someone to stop, notice, and help, just like the man in Jesus' story.

That's what Thornwell did. And that's how we, as a church family, help when we give to and pray for Thornwell.

People at Thornwell gave Kisha and Tanisha a safe place to live, caring adults to help them, and teachers to help them do better in school. They're in college now, planning their futures. That's healing, and that's love, just like the Good Samaritan showed.

**Let's think:** How can we be like the Good Samaritan?

*(Encourage children to respond.)*

*Will you pray with me?*

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for healing love.**

**Help us be like the Good Samaritan. Help us notice when others are hurting, and do something to help. Thank you for helping Kisha and Tanisha, and all the kids at Thornwell.**

**Amen.**



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# ROOTED IN FAITH

**Theme:** God gives us people who love and care for us

**Bible Story:** *Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1–4)*

**Leader:**

Good morning, friends!

Let me ask you something. Who do you love in your family?

*(Let children respond: “Mom,” “Dad,” “Grandma,” etc.)*

Families come in all shapes and sizes, don’t they? And guess what? God made families to help us grow, feel safe, and be loved.

A long time ago, there were two women named Ruth and Naomi. Naomi was Ruth’s mother-in-law, and both of them were very sad because they lost their husbands. Naomi told Ruth, “You don’t have to stay with me. You can go back home to your family.”

But Ruth said something very special. She said, “No, I’m staying with you. Wherever you go, I will go. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

Isn’t that a beautiful promise?

Ruth loved Naomi so much that she stayed and helped her. God used Ruth to care for Naomi and used Naomi to love Ruth back. They became a strong family because of love, not just because they were related.

This month we are hearing stories from our mission partner, Thornwell. Let me tell you a story about a mom named Lekeisha. She has three kids who were having a hard time. They didn’t listen, they fought a lot, and they were really struggling in school. Lekeisha loved them, but she didn’t always know how to help.

Then something wonderful happened, she joined something called Thornwell’s Strengthening Families program. It’s like a big family class, where parents and kids learn how to love each other better, talk kindly, work as a team, and grow together.

Just like Ruth and Naomi, Lekeisha and her kids grew closer because they stayed together and trusted God to help them. Along the way, Thornwell’s program supported them and loved them like family.

And do you want to know something amazing?

Our church helped make that happen! When we give and pray and care about others, God uses us to be part of someone else’s story.

**Let’s think:** What are ways we can show love to our family this week?

*(Encourage responses: “Help with dishes,” “Share toys,” “Say I love you,” “Pray for them”)*

*Will you pray with me?*

*Repeat after me:*

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for families who love us. Thank you for the story of Ruth and Naomi, and for moms like Lekeisha. Help us be kind and helpful in our families, and grow together in your love.**

**Amen.**



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# ROOTED IN FAITH

**Theme:** Love goes beyond what's expected

**Bible Story:** *Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1–17)*

**Focus Verse:** *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." – John 13:14*

Leader:

Good morning, friends!

Have you ever done something kind for someone just because you love them?

Like helping clean up, sharing your snack, or giving a big hug when someone is sad?

Let me ask you this: Have you ever done something kind that wasn't very fun, like helping with a stinky trash bag or cleaning up a mess that wasn't yours?

Those things might not be fun, but they show love in a big way. And that reminds me of something Jesus did.

One night, Jesus was having dinner with His disciples, His closest friends. They had walked a long way to get there, and in those days, people wore sandals and walked on dusty roads. Their feet were yucky and dirty!

Normally, the person with the least important job would be the one to wash everyone's feet. But Jesus, who is the Son of God, did something surprising. He got down on His knees and washed His disciples' feet Himself.

Can you imagine that? The one who could calm storms and heal the sick was doing a job no one wanted to do. But Jesus did it to show His friends what real love looks like.

Jesus told them:

"I did this as an example. Now you should do the same, love each other like I have loved you."

This month we are sharing stories from one of our mission partners, Thornwell! This story reminds me

of the kind of love that Victoria, one of Thornwell's foster moms, showed others. She welcomed a tiny baby named Alana into her home. Alana was very sick and needed a lot of special care. It was hard work, but Victoria and her family were happy to care for her.

When it was time for Alana to visit her biological family, Victoria went above and beyond. She didn't just say, "See you later." She took time to teach Alana's family how to feed and care for her. Victoria continued to stay in touch with Alana's family, and when Alana was ready to go home, they had a big celebration with cake and a lot of hugs.

Even now, they're still one big family. Alana calls Victoria Tía, which means "aunt" in Spanish. And they all love each other very much.

Just like Jesus showed His love in an unexpected way, Victoria did too. That's what it looks like when love goes beyond what is expected. And guess what? Our church helped make that happen through our prayers and support for Thornwell!

**Let's think:** How can you show love like Jesus this week?

*(Encourage responses: Help a sibling with their toys? Say something kind to a friend who's sad? Do a chore without being asked?)*

*Let's say a pray together. Repeat after me:*

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for loving us so much. Help us to love like Jesus with kindness, care, and service. Even when it's hard or messy. Help us to go above and beyond to show love.**

**Amen.**



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# ROOTED IN FAITH

**Theme:** God helps us grow when we are open to learning and trusting Him

**Bible Story:** *The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1–9)*

Good morning, friends! I'm so glad to see you.

Let me ask, have you ever planted a seed before?

*(Pause for answers. Show a seed or small plant if you have one.)*

What do seeds need to grow?

*(Take a few responses: "Water!" "Sunlight!" "Good soil!")*

That's right! Jesus actually told a story about seeds once—it's called a parable, which means a story that teaches us something important. His story is called the Parable of the Sower, can you say that with me? (Children: Parable of the Sower!)

Jesus said a farmer went out to plant seeds.

Some seeds landed on the road; can you pretend to be a bird?

*(Leader flaps arms)*

Birds came and gobbled them up before they even grew!

Some seeds landed on rocky ground. They sprouted fast but had no roots.

*(Wiggle up tall and then slump over)*

The sun came out, and they dried up. Oh no!

Some fell in thorny weeds. They started to grow but the thorns got in the way.

*(Make "scratchy" motions like thorns)*

They couldn't grow big and strong either.

But guess what?

Some seeds landed on good soil. Can you pat the ground?

And those seeds grew tall and strong and made lots of fruit.

Jesus told this story to help us understand how God's words and love grow in our hearts when we're ready to listen, learn, and grow!

This month we are telling stories from one of our mission partners, Thornwell! Let me tell you a real story about a boy named Mateo.

At 16 years old, Mateo moved to a new school, and everyone spoke English, but Mateo's first language is Spanish. Reading and learning were really hard, especially science! He started to feel like the seeds on the rocky ground.

But he joined a special program at Thornwell called Read Right, and he worked hard for a whole year. People believed in him, just like we do when we pray and give to Thornwell.

By the end of the year, Mateo could read big books and he got great grades!

Just like the seeds in good soil, Mateo had people who helped him grow. That's what happens when we care, pray, and share like Jesus teaches us.

**Let's think:** how can you help someone grow in love and hope?

*(Encourage responses: "Pray for them!" "Be kind!" "Help them at school!")*

*Let's pray together. Repeat after me:*

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for planting seeds of hope in us. Help us be good soil. Help us grow strong in Your love. Thank you for helping kids like Mateo. We love you, God!**

**Amen.**



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