

# Loving the Least of These

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

**Lesson 12****Focus:**

We need to show love to those who seem least important.

**Lesson 12****Bible Basis:**

Matthew 25:31-46

**Lesson 12****Memory Verse:**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

—Matthew 25:40

**Students will watch a video about a man in Illinois who feeds and cares for people others think of as worthless.**

**Materials:**

- Internet access

➤ **Who would you say are the most important people in the world?** (Answers will vary. Students may talk about leaders, royalty, celebrities, or scientists curing diseases. Encourage discussion rather than allowing them to simply reply “everyone is important.”)

➤ **Have you ever felt less important than someone else? What made you feel that way?** (Be prepared to share your own experience to get conversation going.)

**In our world, we view some people as more important than others. We give important leaders and government officials special treatment. We want to meet celebrities and get our pictures taken with them. We subscribe to YouTubers who have millions of followers. And we hold high respect for doctors and scientists.**

**Even at your school or in your neighborhood, some kids may seem more important because of athletic ability, good grades, because they wear popular brand-name clothes, or have expensive things. At times, ordinary people who don’t have these things may seem less important, and we may treat them that way.**

➤ **Have you ever felt less important than someone else? What made you feel that way?** (Be prepared to share your own experience to get conversation going.)

**In general, our culture sees children and students as less important than teenagers and adults—especially leaders, social media influencers, scientists, medical professionals, politicians, and lawyers.**

**However, even though society may not place high value on children, their needs are just as important. Let's watch a video about a program in Illinois dedicated to helping children and their families.**

Share the following video [2:56; stop at 2:31]:

Feed the Love: Northern Illinois Food Bank backpack program fills gaps for kids facing hunger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XadN02IUdbo>

➤ **What does the Feed the Love program help students by doing?** (Students may share that the program provides backpacks of food, it helps ensure students and their families have enough to eat, etc.)

➤ **What difference might this makes in the lives of students?** (Students may say that students are getting their needs met, they don't have to wonder where their next meal is coming from, and they feel more hopeful.)

**In helping meet the physical needs of the students, the Feed the Love program reinforces that the children—and their needs—are important.**

**At some point, every one of us has felt unimportant or left out. Let's take a look at how Jesus views people and how we can follow His way in how we love others.**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 12 / February 22, 2026

# Loving the Least of These

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

**Lesson 12****Focus:**

We need to show love to those who seem least important.

**Lesson 12****Bible Basis:**

Matthew 25:31-46

**Lesson 12****Memory Verse:**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

—Matthew 25:40

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Pen/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

**Jesus said that whoever shows love to the “least of these” shows love to Him. God cares about everyone. But He promises to help the poor and those who are in trouble. And He uses us to do that.**

Ask a volunteer to read today’s memory verse (Matthew 25:40).

➤ **What does it mean that what a person did for one of the least of these, they did for the King?** (Students may discuss that the ways we show love to others may consider least important actually demonstrates how much we love God. We should have a heart to love and serve others regardless of their status.)

**God wants you to show love to everyone—especially to those who seem least important in this world. That is because all people *are* important to God. He created them and He loves them. When we love others, we show our love for God. Let’s listen to this song together and think about people God might want us to show His love to.**

➤ **Who are people you know of who might feel less important?** (Students may talk about kids they know from school, the poor, the homeless, young children, the sick, elderly people, etc.)

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Work together as a class to brainstorm and list ideas for showing love to the people just mentioned. Be sure to talk about the everyday ways to love and serve others, such as checking if someone who seems sad is OK, eating lunch with someone sitting alone, caring for a younger sibling, or sharing what we have with those who need it.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as your preteens write: “Give Me Your Eyes” by Brandon Heath [4:02]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNqLuVgY>

**Jesus made it clear that when we show love to those who seem least important, it’s as if we are showing love to Him directly. Keep your list in your Bible and look at it each day this week. You may even want to share it with your parents and talk about how you, as a family, can show love to the “least of these.”**

**Remember that everyone is important to God. We should love people the way He loves people by caring for those who need love the most. Let’s pray and ask God to open our eyes to people who need His love and help us to love them the way He does.**

Close in prayer, asking God to help you to view everyone as important and show them His love.

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