



# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:28-37

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children to show compassion to their neighbors, and understand that their "neighbor" is anyone in need that they are able to help.
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## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Jesus:** Told the story of the Good Samaritan to explain to people who their neighbors are.
- Traveler:** A man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was attacked by robbers and left helpless on the side of the road.
- Good Samaritan:** Even though Samaritans were not on friendly terms with Israelites, this Samaritan saw the man in need, helped clean his wounds, and paid for his lodging and care at a nearby hotel.
- Levite:** A religious man who did nothing to care for the dying man.
- Priest:** A man who was supposed to be good and serve God refused to help the man on the side of the road.
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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Galatians 6:10:** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read over Luke 10:28-37:** Jesus told a story of a Jew traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho who was robbed, beaten, and left for dead by a group of thieves. Two Godly men passed by the injured man and did not help him. Only a Samaritan man—a man from a group of people not friendly to Jews—stopped to help him. The story tells us the importance of helping others.
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## SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **Jesus told this parable in response to a question regarding the commandment for us to love our neighbors. The man asked Jesus who are our neighbors.**

**1. Actual neighbors:** The priest and the Levite were the traveler's actual neighbors in that they came from the same city and cultural background. Both of them not only passed by without helping them, they made sure to be as far away as possible from this dying man as they passed.

**2. Unlikely neighbors:** The Samaritan man was from a different nation and culture from the Jews. At the time when Jesus told this story, Samaritans were a group of people many thought were the least likely to stop and help anyone. They were considered bad guys.

As it turns out, "neighbor" has nothing to do with where we live in relation to others. It has everything to do with the presence of a need and our being willing to help that need.



**PRE-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▷ **Four Corners**

Assign a number to each of the four corners of the classroom. One child is "It," and he or she stands in the middle of the classroom with eyes closed. When "It" says go, the children must begin walking from corner to corner, walking around the perimeter of the room until "It" says stop. At this, all children must run to the nearest corner. Then, "It" calls out a number from 1 to 4. All the children who are at the corner that was called are out of the game until the next round. The winner is the last person who is still in the game. The winner becomes "It" for the next round.

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**MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING**

▷ **Galatians 6:10:** As we encounter anyone in need, we should offer to help. In context with the rest of the chapter, this verse isn't telling us to help Christians more than non-believers. It means that when we help a fellow Christian, our assistance may be the answer to a prayer.

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**POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▷ **Good Samaritan Kit | Supplies:** envelopes, bandages, stickers, pieces of candy, markers, crayons, art supplies.

Provide each child with an envelope with "Good Samaritan Items" in it such as a band aid, a kind note, a sticker, a piece of candy, etc. Have children decorate the envelope, and write the memory verse on it.



TAKE  
HOME



**Jesus gave us two commandments:** Love our God with all our hearts, souls, strength, and minds; love our neighbor as ourselves. Neighbor means everyone—not just the people who live next door to us, the people we go to church with, or our family and friends. Everyone means people we don't like, people who live in different places, people who don't believe in Jesus, people we don't know. When we encounter someone in need we should help them in whatever way we are able.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What were the starting and ending points of the man's journey?

**A1:** He was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho.

**Q1b:** Has your family ever driven on a highway to go somewhere?

**TN:** The traveler was going to Jericho on what was the ancient version of a highway.

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### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did the robbers do to the traveler?

**A2:** They beat him up and stole all of his possessions.

**Q2b:** Do you know of any places in your city that are considered a bit dangerous or unsafe?

**TN:** Once the students name a few places, ask them if they would go to this area at night. If we can, we avoid potentially dangerous situations. The distance between Jerusalem and Jericho is just far enough that travelers wanted to choose the quickest route possible, but doing so put them in danger.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Where did the robbers leave the traveler?

**A3:** On the side of the road

**Q3b:** Has someone ever stolen from you?

**TN:** The circumstances don't need to be as violent as the story, but such an experience will help students to understand the traveler's plight.

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### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did the first man do when he saw the injured traveler on the side of the road?

**A4:** He walked to the other side of the road and didn't stop to help.

**Q4b:** Have you ever been badly hurt?

**TN:** When they were hurt, did they need someone to help them? Did anyone help them? This poor traveler was hurt so badly that he couldn't care for himself. His survival relied upon the help of others. How desperate he must have felt as a potential rescuer just passed by him!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** The second man to pass the injured traveler had what job?

**A5:** He was a temple assistant.

**Q5b:** If you were invisible, what parts of that do you think would be cool and what would be bad?

**TN:** Let students be creative and give answers. The priest and the temple assistant treated the injured traveler as if he were invisible.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** Who stopped to rescue the injured traveler?

**A6:** A Samaritan man

**Q6b:** Who do you think is the meanest, most evil character in a book, movie, or TV show?

**TN:** Then ask them how surprised they would be if this character stopped to help them like the Samaritan did for the injured traveler. In Jesus' time, Samaritans were despised for a number of reasons. Jesus chose to use a Samaritan in this parable because they were the most unlikely group of people from which the listeners would expect to find a hero.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What did the Samaritan give the innkeeper?

**A7:** He gave the innkeeper money to help the injured traveler recover.

**Q7b:** How much money would you spend to make sure Darth Vader survived after an attack?

**TN:** The hatred between Jews and Samaritans was mutual, and yet this one Samaritan not only helped get this injured Jew to a nearby inn, he paid money to make sure that the innkeeper took care of him. The only thing the Samaritan knew about the injured traveler was that he was Jewish—but the Samaritan helped him anyway. This is what Jesus calls us to do. No matter who the person is, no matter what culture he or she is a part of, we are to help in any way we can.





**MEMORY  
VERSE**

- ▷ **Galatians 6:10:** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**BIG IDEA**

- ▷ When we see people in need, we should help them.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear God, thank You for explaining to us that we should love and help everyone just as You do. Help us to reach out and show our neighbors Your love. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



Jesus told many parables to illustrate lessons He wanted the people to understand. One such story was that of the Good Samaritan. Once upon a time, there was a Jewish man on journey. He was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. His journey took him through winding mountain passes and desert trails. It was beautiful, but treacherous at the same time. This popular road was known through the region to be a hideout for robbers who were known to attack and kill their victims.

### SLIDE 2



That is exactly what happened to this poor man. He was riding nervously and quietly through the pass when, suddenly, a group of robbers jumped from the rocks and surrounded him. They rushed toward him, knocked him down, beat him up, and stole all of his possessions.

### SLIDE 3



Snickering with glee, they ran away to their secret hideout. They left the man to die in the withering desert sun. This was a popular road, so the robbers knew more travelers would come this way for them to victimize.

### SLIDE 4



The man lay there dying, praying that someone would come and rescue him. He heard the muttering of prayers and pious language. A priest was coming. Surely, he would rescue him! But as the priest came into sight, he did something strange. He pretended to not even see the injured man! In fact, he passed by on the other side of the road!



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 5



Then, as the injured man was losing hope, he was awoken by the sound of footsteps. He lifted his head and saw another man journeying through the mountain pass. This man was a temple assistant. Finally, here was a rescuer! Imagine the man's grief when this man, too, passed right by him.

### SLIDE 6



Then a despised Samaritan passed by the injured man. Samaritans were disliked by Jews, so the injured man expected that this Samaritan would most likely ignore him, too. But to his surprise, the Samaritan came to his rescue. He cleaned the man's wounds, bandaged them up, put the man on his donkey, and helped him to the nearest town.

### SLIDE 7



There, he gave an innkeeper a generous amount of money to spend on the man to keep him well. "If I need to pay anymore, just tell me when I get back," he told the innkeeper. Jesus told this parable to explain the importance of love. God is not interested in our worship or works if it is not filled with love. To truly worship God is to truly love our neighbors, even if it is someone we do not really like.