

A MERCY-FULL MESSAGE

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

OVERVIEW

Bible Truth

Jesus loves us and helps us love others.

Bible Verse

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Learner Goal

I understand that Jesus loves me and helps me to love and care for my neighbor.

Law & Gospel

We fail to obey Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39)

In love, Jesus forgives our disobedience and enables us to love others.

Supply List:

- Optional ball of yarn
- Optional toy cars & a large sheet of paper
- Optional masking tap
- Optional paper and scissors
- Bible

BEGIN

SAY

Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross and rose for us. He forgives us our sins. He helps us show love for others.

Would you want someone to help you when you're having your worst day ever? (Allow for answers) But what if no one will help? How would that make you feel? (Allow for answers) How would you feel when someone finally does help you? In our Bible narrative today, we're going to learn about a guy who was having a pretty bad day.

Pray

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Help us to listen and to learn how to be a good friend and show love for others. Amen

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: As you read the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan, have your children/family do the actions.

When Jesus lived on earth, He taught people about God's love and healed people. Many people came to listen to Jesus. One day, a man asked Jesus, "What do I have to do to get to heaven?"

Jesus pointed the man to God's Word. He asked, "What does the Bible say?"

The man answered, "You must love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself." Then the man asked, "But who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered this question by telling a story about a man who was walking on a dangerous road.

A man walked down the road to Jericho. (Walk in place.) Some robbers jumped out from behind a rock. (Jump.) They hit the man and took his things, and then they ran away. (Run in place.) They left the man hurt and bleeding. He felt so bad he couldn't walk. (Hold your head.)

Along came a priest. He worked in the temple-church. Surely, he would help! (Nod head yes.) But no. He just kept walking down the road. (Walk in place.)

Another man came by. He worked at the temple-church too. Would he help? (Put hands up in question.) No, he just kept walking too. (Walk in place.)

Finally, a man came with a donkey. Clip clop, clip clop. (Pat legs in clip clop pattern.) This man was from a country called Samaria. The people from Samaria and the people from the hurt man's country did not like each other. But the man from Samaria felt sorry for the hurt man, so he stopped. (Say "hooray!")

He rubbed some oil on the hurt man's wounds. (Rub arms.) He put bandages on his sores. Then he put the hurt man on his donkey and took him to a safe place. Clip clop, clip clop. (Pat legs in clip-clop pattern.) In the morning, the man from Samaria had to leave. But he gave some money to the man who owned the inn where they had stayed. He said, "Please take care of the hurt man until I come back."

After Jesus told this story, He asked, "Who was a kind neighbor?"

Someone listening said, "The one who helped the hurt man."

Jesus said, "I want you to be a kind and loving neighbor too."

Jesus told this story to teach about God and His love. The Samaritan showed loved for the hurt man and cared for him. Jesus wants us to show love for others and care for them too. The man from Samaria helped the hurt man even though he was from a different country and didn't even know him! Jesus came to help us in an even better way. He rescued us from the hurt of sin by dying on the cross for us and rising again. He forgives us and helps us to love others.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

A lawyer asked Jesus what a person had to do to get into heaven.

Jesus asked him, "What is written in the Law?" Jesus was talking about God's Ten Commandments.

The lawyer answered, "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." These are God's words that show how to keep His Ten Commandments.

Jesus told him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

The lawyer was proud. Maybe he didn't love all people as much as he loved himself, but if only certain people counted as his neighbor, he could certainly get into heaven on his own. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

So Jesus told a story about a Jewish man who was walking down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves beat him, stole his clothes and possessions, and left him half dead. This poor man was going to die unless someone stopped and helped him.

Two Jewish leaders went by—a priest and a Levite. Both of them saw the beaten man, but they walked to the other side of the road and passed by like they had never seen him. Then a Samaritan came along. The Jews hated the Samaritans and treated them badly. But when this Samaritan looked at the dying Jewish man, he felt sorry for him, and he stopped to take care of him.

Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man?" The lawyer said it was the Samaritan because he stopped to take care of him. Jesus told him to go and do the same: treat every single person as if he or she were his neighbor—even people he didn't like and people who didn't like him.

Some people hear this parable of the Good Samaritan and think Jesus was teaching that if we just love people and treat everyone like our neighbor, we can get to heaven without faith in Him. But He was showing that none of us keeps God's rules. None of us loves God more than every- thing else, and none of us loves every other person as much as we love ourselves. The only way we can be saved is by trusting in Jesus, who loved every one of us enough to take our sins and die on the cross in our place.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What happened to the hurt man?
- How can we show love to people in our lives? Why would we want to?
- What does Jesus want us to learn from the story He told?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Samaritans were despised by the Jews. They were seen as enemies, so it would have been a big deal for a Jew to be helped in such a generous way by a Samaritan.
- Jesus shows us that our neighbors are the people who are near us, as well as those throughout the world who need our care.
- It's easy to turn this lesson into a lesson about the Law, about how we should help our neighbor. And yes, God does call us to love our neighbor, but that's not the whole story. Remember, we are not the Good Samaritan in this story; Jesus is. We can love our neighbor only because we have first been rescued from our own deadly condition. This a story of merciful rescue first.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Neighborhood Map

Put a large sheet of paper on the table. Have your children work together to draw streets, trees, parks, houses, and other buildings. They can put toy cars on the streets. Comment on how they are using their hands to work together to make a neighborhood. Say, **Jesus wants us to show love and kindness to others. Who are some people in your neighborhood? What can you do to show Jesus' love to them?**

Be a Helper

Tape a strip of masking tape on the floor. Ask each child to walk, on foot in front of the other, trying to stay on the line. It's not easy! Then pair up children and have

one child walk, holding onto another's hand. Talk about how it was easier to balance with a helper. Say, **Jesus helps us look for people who need help and show love from them, just as He shows love for us.**

Big Heart

Draw (or cut out from a sheet of red construction paper) and decorate a big heart. Think of specific people who need help, and write their names inside the heart. Pray for all the people that you've listed in the heart.

Good Samaritan Research

Together with you kids, do an online search of the term "Good Samaritan." Count how many times this term is associated with a hospital. Why is this a good name for a hospital? Talk about professions that care for people who are hurt. Pray for all who care for sick or injured people particularly for hospital staff, doctors, nurses and everyone who is caring for people during this time.

Who is My Neighbor?

Have your family sit in a circle. Ask, **Who is your neighbor?** Accept answers. **Your neighbor is the person next to you. Shake hands! Your neighbor can be someone far away too. Jesus says our neighbor is anyone who needs our help and care.** Hold the end of a ball of yarn and toss the ball to a child. Have the child hold the yarn and toss the ball to someone else. Continue till everyone is connected. Say, **We made a friendship web! We're all connected and anyone who needs our help and care is our neighbor. How can we show love to others?**

ENDING

SAY

Just as the Samaritan loved and rescued the injured man, Jesus loves and rescues us. Jesus also helps us to love others. Because we have received so much love from Jesus, we want to share the love with others.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for being our Savior and rescuing us from our sinful condition. Help us to share Your love by serving our neighbors. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen
