



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Nursery • January 2024

Concept

Jesus loves everyone.

Goal

The children will learn through the parable of the Good Samaritan that Jesus loves everyone.

Passage

Luke 10:25-37

Key Verse: "... love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies

- The Bible in Pictures for Toddler, Lindvall, p.108
- The Beginner's Bible, Henley
- Laminated, magnet-backed pictures:
 - 2 priests
 - Samaritan man on knees
 - Robbers
 - Victim lying down
 - Victim standing up
 - Bed

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“This parable, unique to Luke, requires the utmost care in its interpretation. It must neither be over allegorized, as it was by the early church fathers, nor reduced to a simplistic meaning hardly worthy of Jesus’ teaching. Above all, it must be understood in its context, with attention to the questions of v. 25 and v. 29 and to Jesus’ application in vv. 36-37...”[2]

“... Christ was not telling the man that he would be saved by keeping the law. The man wanted to know how righteous he must be in order to enter the kingdom and what works he could do to prove that he had been made righteous. Christ in replying to his interrogation used the law lawfully. The law was primarily designed to be a revelation of the holiness of God (1 Peter 1:15-16). It also revealed the demands that God made of those who wished to be acceptable to Him and to walk in fellowship with Him (Matt. 5:48). This scholar in the law could examine the law and from the law would know that God is holy. Further, this law expert could know the demands that God’s holiness would make on those who desired to be in fellowship with Him- on those who wished to be admitted to Messiah’s kingdom... It is readily evident that that knowledge did not satisfy. The man’s knowledge only brought conviction, for he sought to ‘justify himself’ (Luke 10:29)... His defense was his ignorance.”[3]

A deep hatred existed between the Jews and Samaritans. While the Jews considered themselves pure descendants of Abraham, the Samaritans were a mixed race of Northern Kingdom Jews and a variety of other races. No doubt to the Jewish expert, the despised Samaritan would have been the least likely person to respond correctly in Jesus’ story. In fact, he betrayed himself at the end of the text, when unable to even utter the word “Samaritan,” he proved his lack of the very thing he pronounced the law commanded – love.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all know that we often have a religious mentality when it comes to genuine mercy shown to others. The cost is too high and/or there is a threat of personal loss or inconvenience. Praise God that His mercy is genuine and His grace is sufficient. Pray that your understanding of His love and grace will motivate and empower you to love as He did so that others may know Him.

[2] Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 8, 1984, Zondervan Corporation, p. 942.

[3] Dwight Pentecost, The Parable of Jesus, © 1982 by The Zondervan Corporation, p. 73.

Prayer

Pray for the children

- With your team before class
- During the week

Pray simple short prayers with the children

Lesson Lg. Group

“The Good Samaritan”

Main Points:

- A man asked Jesus who he should love
- Jesus told the man that he should love everyone.
- Jesus told a story about a man who was hurt by robbers
 - 3 men who said they loved others didn't help the man
 - 1 man who was different stopped to help the man
- The man who stopped to help was the one who loved everyone
- Jesus loves everyone
- Jesus wants us to love everyone