

The Good Samaritan

Hear the story.

Children will need to read or hear the story of the Good Samaritan. As you ask them to watch or read the story remind them it's a Christian story from the Bible. Explain they will hear about two types of people – Jews and Samaritans. The Jews and the Samaritans were enemies and wouldn't normally even speak to each other.

Watch the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osfQg4yKtq8>
(Saddleback Kids)

Read the story:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NLT>

If they have their own Bible or Children's Bible at home encourage them to find the story and read it there.

Check our understanding.

Choose one or more of the activities in this section to help ensure the children have understood the story.

Online Quizzes (using google forms):

Yes or No quiz:

<https://forms.gle/F5gWgVqsP5szXAx6>

Multiple choice quiz:

<https://forms.gle/SdGLCdbjVVYnVhqZA>

For younger children encourage them to get someone to ask them the questions from the Yes or No quiz. They could make up actions for yes and no. Perhaps they could jump up for yes and sit down for no.

Create your favourite part of the story:

Choose your favourite part of the story.

Make or draw a picture of the part of the story that you have chosen. You could:

- draw a picture
- go outside and find twigs, stones and grass to make a natural picture
- create a collage or model with craft materials or construction toys that you have at home.

Tell someone else in your family all about your picture. Can you tell them the whole story?

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Drama fun:

Look at the following summary of the story. Can you make up actions to go along with each part?

- A Jewish man went walking
- Some robbers hurt him
- The man lay groaning
- A priest hurried quickly past
- A temple assistant hurried quickly past
- A Samaritan man came riding on his donkey
- He cared for the man
- He paid for him to stay at a hotel until he was better

Travel Journal:

- Ask the children to create a travel journal for the Jewish man who was travelling.
- Include entries from before the journey, on the journey before he was attacked, the day he was attacked, lying in the inn recovering.
- Include information on what was happening to him and on what he was feeling and thinking.

Create a character:

Ask the children to:

- Choose one (or more) characters from the story.
- Create the character(s) however they (or you) want. This could be drawing, collage, painting, using natural materials, even a 3D model.
- Around the outside of their character ask them to write words which describe the character.

Start thinking.

As children explore this story they will understand more about Christian belief but also consider their own morals and values. Use one or more of these activities to encourage them to start thinking about the meaning hidden in the story.

Who was kind and helpful?:

Watch or read the story again.

Ask the children to use any dolls or soft toys they have to pretend to be the characters in the story. Can they find something to be a bandage and put it on the character who was injured? Can they draw a heart and stick it to the character who was kind? What did he do that was kind? Can they tell you why it was surprising that the Samaritan helped the Jewish man?

Definitions:

Ask the children to think carefully and write definitions of all or some of these words or phrases:

- Compassion
- Show mercy
- Neighbour. What they mean by neighbour when they use the word AND what Jesus meant by neighbour in this story.
- A Good Samaritan.

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Discussion questions:

If you're able to have a class discussion try using these questions. You could of course set them for short writing tasks.

- How do you think the Jewish man felt when the Priest and Temple Assistant walked past him?
- Why do you think the Priest and the Temple assistant walked past and didn't help?
- How do you think the Jewish man felt when the Samaritan man stopped and helped?
- Why do you think the Samaritan man stopped and helped?
- Did it cost the Samaritan man to help the Jewish man?
- Would you have stopped to help? Would you have used your own things and money to help?

Moral dilemmas:

The story teaches us that Jesus wants Christians to behave like the Samaritan man. Ask the children to read these scenarios and consider what they think Jesus would want Christians to do. Ask them to explain their answer. Extend the activity to consider what they would do. Would they help? How would they help? Can they persuade you why their decision is right?

- It's tricky to buy pasta in the shops at the moment. Often there isn't any. You have two small packets of pasta left in your house, when you're speaking to your friend on the phone they tell you they have no pasta left and they couldn't find any in the shops. What do you do?
- You're out for a walk. You know not to go near anyone as we all have to keep 2 metres apart to help keep us safe from the coronavirus. You see an old lady fall over and not get up. What do you do?
- You have done all your school work and want to watch TV. Your mum is tired. She's trying to work from home and look after you. The house is a bit messy and it's making mum grumpy. What do you do?

Turning thinking into action.

There are lots of opportunities to be a Good Samaritan during the Coronavirus outbreak. We might need to be creative. These activities are designed to help children consider how they can help others and to encourage them to put their values into action.

Helping hands:

Draw around your hand. Inside the hand, draw one way that you could help someone at home during the coronavirus outbreak. Maybe ask your whole family to do it. Cut out all your hand pictures and stick them on to a piece of paper. Label the hands 'Helping Hands'

Challenge: Can you do what you drew inside the hand?

A helping song:

Make up verses to this song and sing them out loud!
(tune: Wheels on the bus)

"We can help each other by _____, _____, _____,
We can help each other by _____,
All day long!"

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Spot a Good Samaritan:

Ask the children to spot people helping others? Can they spot people helping strangers? Can they spot people using their own resources to help others?

You could ask them to look out for Good Samaritans in and around their home.

You could ask them to watch Newsround and see if they spotted any Good Samaritans in that day's reporting.

Younger children could make a cardboard tube telescope to help them spot!

Come up with your own ideas:

Ask the children to create a list of how they can be a Good Samaritan (how can they help others)

- In their homes
- In their communities
- To people they don't know
- To people in other countries

Why not create a class mind map or Jamboard? Remind them it's important they stay safe as they help others.

Encourage them to put their ideas into action!

Suggest ways they can be a Good Samaritan:

There are of course lots of ideas! You could encourage donations to a local foodbank, calling grandparents, writing letters to care home residents, getting in touch with a friend, helping around the house, making decorations for windows or garden to encourage passers by.

Remember to recognise and praise (and encourage parents to do the same) all the small acts of kindness the children show.