

The Good Samaritan

Grades
1-2

NEIGHBOR

LUKE 10:25-37

What is happening in this story?

Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan is told in response to a question posed by a lawyer—not the equivalent of a modern-day attorney, but a scholar of the Jewish law: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" When Jesus directs him to the very law the lawyer knows so well, he seems disappointed that love of God and neighbor is the answer. He presses Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"—hoping, it seems, to wriggle out of having to serve people he doesn't like. With the parable, then, Jesus turns the question around, saying, essentially, "Don't worry about who is a neighbor to you. Go and *be* a neighbor to everyone else."

Why does this story matter for kids?

With its vivid events and characters, this story told by Jesus makes a strong impression on kids. Their imaginations can easily picture the hurt man by the road, the priest and Levite walking by without stopping, and the Samaritan bandaging the man's wounds and taking him on his own beast to a place where he can rest and recover. Whether or not you opt to explain the prejudice between Jewish and Samaritan people of the day, kids can grasp the power of showing kindness to someone in need.

Why this theme?

It's important for kids to realize that we have more neighbors beyond the people who live next door to us. The world is full of different kinds of people, all of whom are our neighbors.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Kids hear about love at home and in church, but this lesson is an opportunity to make a connection between love and action. We are neighbors when we show love to others through actions such as helping or being a friend to someone who is lonely.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Pencils
- Markers
- Stapler
- White paper (precut into strips 2 in. wide x 6 in. long; 2 per kid)

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Sticky notes (8 total)
- Whiteboard with markers
- Ball

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Invite kids to write or draw ways they have shown love or been kind to others on strips of white paper. Starting with one loop of paper, add strips one at a time and staple to create a kindness chain for the classroom. **This kindness chain could go on and on and on—kindness never ends!**

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Write each letter of the word *neighbor* on a separate sticky note. **Let's use these letters to spell a word we will see in today's story.** Put one letter at a time on a whiteboard, and then say the word together. **Who are your neighbors? Sometimes our neighbors move away and we get new neighbors. How else can your neighbors change?** (changing seats at school, a new baby, etc.) **There's another meaning of neighbors too. Everyone is our neighbor, and we are called to love and care for them.**

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for giving us neighbors all over the world. Help us to love them the same way that you love us. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Read the sentence together: **Everyone is my neighbor.**
Ask kids to share what they see in the picture in each

corner. **The people in these pictures are all neighbors to us even though we don't know them. In today's story we will meet a man who is a good neighbor to someone he doesn't know.** Point to the paper doll chain. **Color each person differently to make a chain of neighbors.** When kids finish coloring, invite them to join hands and shout out the sentence together, **"Everyone is my neighbor!"** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Ada, Otto, and Victor see a girl with a jump rope at the playground. Let's watch to see what happens.

View Episode 1, "Bias and Birdies," on the Year Gold Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- How does Otto feel about the playground?
- Why does Victor suddenly stop speaking?
- What does Ada do?
- When have you felt like an outsider?
- How could you be a neighbor to someone you don't know?



Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story for today! Help kids find "The Good Samaritan" on page 258. Before you read, invite kids to look for the person who is a neighbor.



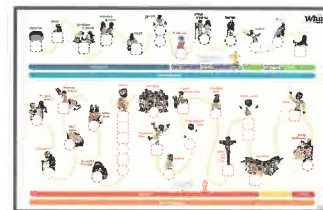
Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What happened to the Jewish man?**
- **Who passed by and didn't help him?**
- **Why was the Jewish man afraid when he saw the Samaritan?**
- **How was the Samaritan a neighbor?**
- **When have you been a neighbor to someone you didn't know?**

Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), Bible section (Gospels), and character image (Good Samaritan). **Today's Bible story is about a Samaritan who stops to help a stranger on the road to Jericho. Let's add a sticker to remind us of the person whom the Samaritan helped (Jewish man).** Point to the corresponding images of the Samaritan and the Jewish man on pages 258 and 261 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Today we are going to name different ways we can be good neighbors by helping and caring for others. Invite kids to stand in a circle, and choose one to be the leader. **We are going to toss this ball back and forth to each other until the leader says, "Time to help." Whoever is holding the ball will name a way to help a neighbor, and everyone will say, "We are like the Samaritan when we help our neighbors."** Encourage kids to toss the ball so that everyone has at least one chance to share a way to help a neighbor.

BIBLE BIT

The Samaritan used wine and oil—likely olive oil—on the wounds of the injured man. The wine was an antiseptic to clean the wound, and the oil soothed it.

WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, ask kids: **Why does Victor stop playing to call an emergency church meeting?**

OUR CHURCH

Ask other church families to meet after worship and rake leaves, shovel snow, or plant flowers for some homebound church members.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, pencils, and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Point to the image on the top of the leaflet. Ask kids in pairs to share things that the Samaritan did to help the Jewish man who was hurt. Partner with one kid if you have an odd number. Come back together after everyone has shared.
2. **Choose three things that happened after the Samaritan saw the Jewish man.** (He bandaged the wounds, put the man on his donkey, took him to the inn, etc.)
3. **Write or draw each part of the story in the boxes labeled *First, Next, and Then.***
4. Observe and encourage kids as they work to retell this part of the story.
5. **What are some ways you can be a neighbor by helping or caring for others?**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

A Jewish man who was hurt cried when a priest and a Levite both passed right by him. A Samaritan stopped to help even though Jewish people and Samaritans did not like each other. God wants us to be like the Samaritan because everyone is our neighbor. How can you help someone this week? Take time to hear kids' responses.

Pass out leaflet panels.

Color one of the handprints in the cross each time you show love to a neighbor this week. Tell them about the story of the Good Samaritan too!

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.