

# The Good Samaritan

Grades  
**5-6**

## 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

The story of the good Samaritan is woven into the fabric of modern society. Most kids will be familiar with it as an example of basic human kindness. What they may not completely understand is that Jesus used it to illuminate Jewish law for the way people should live.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Colored pencils
- Pens

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Sticky notes
- Dice (1 per 3 kids)

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Write a brief message that offers encouragement on a sticky note, and leave it on the pad. Next to the pad, have another note that instructs the first kid to arrive to remove and wear the encouraging sticky note and write a new one for the next person who arrives.

## Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

If I asked you to identify your neighbor, how would you do that? How do you usually get along with your neighbor? Listen for a few responses. **Sometimes the answer to the question “Who is your neighbor?” is specific. Your neighbor could be the person next to you at this moment or a person whose home is near yours. Jesus’ definition of *neighbor* is more than physical closeness. His definition is about a relationship. We’re going to take a closer look at how Jesus defines that relationship.**

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for bringing us together. Open our eyes and ears so we can learn more about your teaching about neighbors. Amen.**

## Pass out leaflets, colored pencils, and Whirl Kids Study Bibles.

Imagine you are involved in a group project at school, and you share a great idea with the group. But someone else steals your idea and claims all the credit. How do you respond? Give kids time to discuss. Read the two versions of the “Golden Rule” on the leaflet. What would happen in this scenario if you followed the first rule? The second? Which rule is the real Golden Rule? (Look up Matthew 7:12 on page 1164.) Which one do you think people follow more often? Decorate the real rule so that it looks like a meme that would really capture people’s attention. Give kids time to draw and then share their Golden Rule memes.



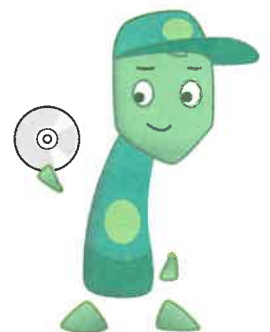
## Gather kids around the screen where you’ll watch the video.

Have you ever made assumptions about someone or something, only to find out you were wrong? This happens to Gabe. Let’s watch!

View Episode 1, “The Line,” on the Year Gold Spring Grades 3–6 DVD.

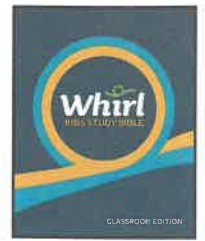
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Why did Gabe stop Jamila from talking to the other kids?
- What do you think would’ve happened if Jamila had gone over to talk to the high school kids in the beginning?
- Have you ever been in a situation where people stay apart just because it’s always been that way? What is that like?
- Why do you think the high school kids saved Gabe?
- What are some ways that we can get along with people who are different from us?



## Open your Whirl Kids Study Bibles.

Today's passage is from the book of Luke. It's in the New Testament in the Gospels and Acts section of the Bible. Invite kids to check out the book introduction and comic on page 1225.



In this section of Luke's gospel, the author is focused on the connection between relationships and discipleship. Here, Jesus is questioned by a lawyer—someone who is extremely familiar with Jewish law. In answering his question, Jesus tells a parable about a Samaritan. Jewish people didn't have a lot of respect for Samaritans. Keep that in mind as we read the passage.

Help kids find Luke 10:25-37 and read it in this creative way together: Ask for two volunteers to read the scripture; have one read Luke 10:25-29 and the other read 10:30-37. After the kids hear it once, ask a volunteer to reread verses 30-37, and have kids act out the roles of the hurt man, robbers, priest, Levite, Samaritan, and innkeeper.

Invite kids to check out what Gabe says about Luke 10:30-37.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Why do you think Jesus uses Jewish law to answer the man's original question?
- What excuses could the priest and the Levite have for passing by the injured man?
- Have you ever seen someone who needed help? What did you do?
- What options did the Samaritan have when he came across the injured man? Why do you think he made the choice he did?
- How can you show mercy to people around you?

## Make your mark on the Wall Chart.

Look at the chart and find the theme for today. Give kids time to find the word *Neighbor*. Neighbors reach out to each other. They show mercy to each other. And they help each other in times of need. Let's start with the box by *Neighbor* and draw a bunch of arrows toward other boxes to symbolize that neighborly action.



### BIBLE BIT

The lawyer's assumption that he could *inherit* eternal life suggests that he may have thought that his future was determined by his ancestors. Jesus' answer told him that wasn't the case.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, ask kids to suggest ideas about how the skate park could be changed so that kids weren't separated.

### OUR CHURCH

Talk to a member of your church's missions or outreach team, and learn about how your church is active with its neighbors in the community.

# RESPOND 10

## Open leaflets and pass out pens and dice.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. **God gave laws to the Jewish people. Many laws, including the Ten Commandments, are recorded in the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This section of the Bible is called the Pentateuch. The lawyer in today's story would have known these books and God's law well. Jesus uses the story of the good Samaritan to help the lawyer see that he already knows the answer to his question.**
2. **The leaflet lists five examples of laws from Leviticus 19 about how people should treat each other, rewritten in words for today. Invite volunteers to read each one out loud. In the #6 spot, write your own law about how people should treat each other. Invite kids to share their law.**
3. **Form groups of three. Your group is going to write a story about applying one of God's laws—or one of the laws we wrote—to a situation today. Roll the die to decide which law your group's story has to use. If a group rolls #6, they can choose from among the three self-written laws.**
4. **Here's the trick: You need to include yourselves in the story, along with a specific neighbor, place, and thing. The leaflet shows three word banks for these categories. Roll the die once for each word bank to determine which neighbor, place, and thing to include in your story.**
5. **Encourage creativity and details. When finished, invite kids to share their stories and scenarios. Invite each group to explain how its law could be summed up as "Love your neighbor as yourself." How is it easy or difficult to apply laws written thousands of years ago to our life today?**

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

In the end, the idea is pretty simple: Love God. Love others. Treat your neighbor the way you want your neighbor to treat you. But it can be difficult in real life. Why do you think that is?

## Return to the leaflet panels and pass out pens.

Think about a specific person you don't get along with. In the circles that connect the figures on the leaflet, write things you might have in common with that person. How does finding things in common help you get along with someone?

## 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.