

The Good Samaritan

PreK-
K

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

While the Good Samaritan is a familiar parable to many, this may be the first time kids in your class are hearing it. Emphasize the parts that will be easiest to relate to and understand, such as taking care of someone when they are hurt, and that our neighbors aren't always who we expect them to be.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Crayons

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Play dough
- First aid kit (remove scissors and sharp objects)
- Adhesive bandages (3 per kid)
- Toilet paper (1 roll per 2 kids)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Who are all the people you see in your neighborhood?

They're all your neighbors. Examples: next-door neighbor, delivery and mail carriers, garbage collectors, utility workers, and police.

Invite kids to sculpt play dough neighbors. **Who did you make? When do you see them?**

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Show kids the first aid kit. **Think about a time you got hurt. Did someone use a first aid kit to take care of you? It might have been a parent, babysitter, teacher, or nurse. Whoever helped was being your neighbor. Neighbors are people who live close by. Neighbors are also the people who help and love us, or whom we help and love, no matter where they live.** Have the kids pass the first aid kit around the circle. Invite kids to share stories as time permits, being sensitive to those who have had serious injuries needing a higher level of care.

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for giving us neighbors who live both nearby and far away. Help us to be good neighbors to everyone we meet. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and adhesive bandages.

Let's look at the pictures of the people. All of them look hurt. What happened to the boy with the skateboard? Invite kids to put a bandage on the boy's elbow. **Now look at the girl. Where is she hurt?** Have kids put a bandage on the girl's knee. **Next we see a boy holding his face. Where is he hurt? Will a bandage help a toothache?** **The bottom picture is from today's Bible story. A man is hurt by some robbers.** Invite kids to place a bandage on the man where they imagine he is hurt. Collect their leaflets until Respond.



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

In the video today, a new kid shows up at the playground. Watch how the Whirl kids decide whether or not they should include her in their games.

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

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Where are the kids playing together?**
- **Why doesn't Victor want to play with the new girl?**
- **When have you met a new friend?**
- **Who decides to invite the new girl to play badminton?**
- **What's the best part about meeting new friends and neighbors?**



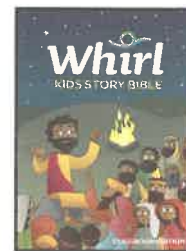
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

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 Good Samaritan who helps the man that is hurt.

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

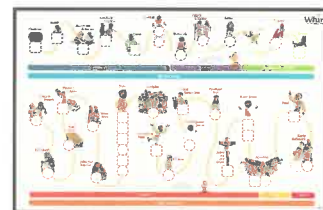
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What had happened to the man who was hurt?**
- **How did he feel when no one would help him?**
- **How did the Samaritan help the hurt man?**
- **When have you been hurt?**
- **Who are neighbors you have helped?**



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

Point out the Testament (New) and character image (Good Samaritan). **Today's Bible story was about a man who was hurt, and the only person who stopped to help him—the Samaritan. Let's add a sticker to remind us of the Samaritan's kindness and the person he helped (hurt man).** Point to the corresponding images of the Good Samaritan and the hurt man on pages 258 and 261 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

In the Bible story, the Good Samaritan helped the hurt man by bandaging his wounds and taking him to an inn where he could rest. Have kids pair up. Designate an area of the room as "the inn." Give each pair of kids one roll of toilet paper. Invite one kid in each pair to be the hurt man and one to be the Good Samaritan. Have kids role-play the parts of the hurt man and the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan wraps toilet paper around the hurt man's wounds—arms, legs, feet, hands, head, etc., then helps their partner to the inn. Switch roles and play again. **You can help your neighbor when they need it, whether they are someone who lives close or far away!**

BIBLE BIT

Samaritans and Jews did not get along in Jesus' day. It's significant in the parable that the religious leaders were not good neighbors, while the Samaritan was.

WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, have the kids think about how they would have invited Chiran to play with them had they been there.

OUR CHURCH

Invite someone from your church who works with refugees or people experiencing homelessness to talk to the kids about what they do and to answer questions.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. **Imagine that the door you see on your leaflet is the door to someone's home.**
2. Invite kids to color their doors.
3. **What color is your door at home? Why did you choose the color you're using today?**
4. Have kids fold each side of their leaflet back and stand their doors up on the table in front of them.
5. **The kids sitting around you are your neighbors. Even though you may not live close to each other, you are still neighbors. Neighbors are people we care about because God loves them. God loves everyone! So, everyone is our neighbor!**
6. Invite kids to take turns pretending to knock on each other's doors and introduce themselves. **Knock on the table to make the knocking sound.** Have kids say their name, age, and favorite animal to their new neighbor.
7. **Getting to know our neighbors better is fun. Knowing our neighbors is a way to pass around God's love.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Today we heard about a man who had been hurt badly. He needed help. Some people who could have helped him ignored him. But the Good Samaritan knew the hurt man was his neighbor. The Samaritan helped the hurt man even though he'd never met him before. How can you get to know a new neighbor? Take time to hear kids' responses.

Pass out leaflet panels.

You can tell the story of the Good Samaritan to someone today. Let's make booklets to help. Help kids accordion fold along the lines to create a Good Samaritan booklet. The top picture will be the first page of the booklet.

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.