

# The Good Samaritan

## Exploring Parables

### Overview

A part of each *Good News* lesson is always dedicated to hearing the Sunday Gospel story. In this lesson, the children will dramatize the Parable of the Good Samaritan and play a game that challenges them to find ways to help others.

### Share Experiences

**Gathering Prayer:** Have volunteers prepare the ritual space in your meeting place. Ask the children to gather there as they arrive. Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Invite the children to offer petitions that they would like the group to pray about. After each petition, lead the children in the response that your parish uses at Sunday Eucharist. Conclude this sharing by thanking God for the members of the class and asking God to bless your time together. Close by singing “The Whole World Is in God’s Hands.”

**Telling Stories:** A.A. Milne, the creator of *Winnie-the-Pooh*, was the youngest of three sons. He recalled that when the three boys snuggled on the sofa with their dad to hear a story, the story would often begin, “There once was a man who had three sons.” Milne’s two older brothers would immediately jab an elbow in his ribs because they knew from the beginning which of the sons would be the hero and get the princess—the third son. In the three little pigs, which pig outwits the wolf?

The children will know other stories like this. Ask them to tell some examples. Then say that Jesus often taught by telling a story.

### Materials

- Copies of “Who Is My Neighbor?” activity page and the “How Can I Help?” game page
- Pencils, scissors, markers, coins
- Props: walking staffs for the travelers, masks for robbers, prayer books for the priest and helper, cloak for the Samaritan, apron for the innkeeper

### Discover Gospel and Doctrine

**The Good Samaritan:** Introduce the story of the Good Samaritan by explaining that this is a story Jesus told about helping others. Jesus knew that all of us need help at times. Jesus also knew that sometimes we take time to help others and sometimes we don’t. Ask them to listen as you read the story from Luke 10:25–37 or tell it in your own words.

End the reading with Jesus’ question: Which of the three travelers was a neighbor to the man who was robbed and beaten? Ask the children to answer the question and give reasons for their answers.

**Gospel Drama: Who is My Neighbor?** Prepare the children to dramatize this Gospel. It puts Jesus’ story into their own words and encourages them to imagine the characters. Distribute the Gospel Drama pages and scissors. Have the children cut off the strip with the hearts and the game instructions. Then put the strip and scissors aside to use later. Read through the Gospel with the children so they are comfortable with the vocabulary and can ask questions.

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Divide the children into groups of seven to read and then dramatize the Gospel. Have them number off from one to seven and assign parts.

1. Teacher
2. Jesus
3. Priest
4. Helper
5. Samaritan
6. Man who is robbed
7. Innkeeper

Distribute the props listed in the Materials section at the beginning of this guide. Have one set of seven children read the parts and a second set of seven portray the characters using the props. The rest of the children will be the audience. Repeat the dramatization until all class members have a chance to participate. Present your drama to another class.

## Live The Gospel

**How Can I Help?** Ask the children if they have heard of good Samaritans in their city or neighborhood. A good Samaritan is someone who helps others, especially in an emergency. Like the man in the Gospel, good Samaritans help people they don't know and who might be very unlike them. If you fell off your bike and into the street, a good Samaritan would stop and make sure you got back on the sidewalk safely. A good Samaritan might repair a sidewalk for an older person, so he or she wouldn't stumble on the cracks. During the time of slavery in the United States, good Samaritans helped people escape using the Underground Railroad.

The "How Can I Help?" game challenges children to tell ways they can help in situations they encounter in their daily lives. Distribute one page to each pair of children. They can use any small objects for markers and a coin to determine the number of spaces to move on each turn.

Ask the children to pick up the strip with the game instructions and hearts that they set aside earlier. Read the directions aloud together. Give the children time to cut out the five heart squares and write their names. When everyone is ready, review the game directions again.

Move around the room as the children play, listening in on their conversations. When all are finished, ask each group to tell one of the ways they helped. Be sure they tell about all the illustrations.

Congratulate the children on their inventiveness in finding ways to be good Samaritans. Play another round of the game if there is time.

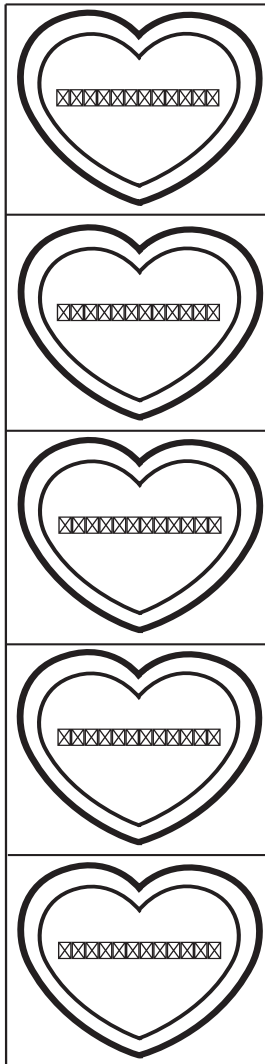
**Closing Prayer:** Gather in a prayer circle. Ask the children to give thanks for the people who help them every day. Close by singing "The Whole World Is in God's Hands."

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### How Can I Help?

Cut out the cards below. Write your name on each. Find a partner. Take turns flipping a coin and moving your marker. When you land on a square with a drawing, tell how you can help, then cover the picture with a heart card. The first player to use all the heart cards wins the game.



*A Gospel Drama: Luke 10:25-37*

## Who Is My Neighbor?

One day, a person who studied and taught others about God’s law had a question for Jesus.

**TEACHER:** Jesus, what must I do to have everlasting life?

**JESUS:** What does the law of God say?

**TEACHER:** You shall love God with all your heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and love your neighbor the way you love yourself.

**JESUS:** Yes, you are right.

**TEACHER:** But who is my neighbor?

**JESUS:** There was a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers took his money and beat him. They left him to die by the side of the road. A priest of the Temple came along the road and saw him.

**PRIEST:** Who is this? I can’t stop and find out. I have important things to do.

**JESUS:** A man who was a helper at the Temple came by next.

**HELPER:** What happened to this man? I can’t stop and find out. I might be late and lose my job.

**JESUS:** Then a man from Samaria came by.

**TEACHER:** A man from Samaria! Those people don’t keep the law of God. They do not even come to our Temple.

**JESUS:** I know, but the Samaritan stopped.

**SAMARITAN:** This poor man! Someone beat him up. Sir, are you alive?

**MAN:** I guess so. *(Groans.)*

**SAMARITAN:** Don’t worry. I will help you. I will clean your cuts and bandage them.

**JESUS:** The man from Samaria took the beaten man to an inn and cared for him. The next morning he talked to the innkeeper.

**SAMARITAN:** Please take care of this man. Here is money. I will stop on my way back to see if he needs anything else.

**JESUS:** Now, who was a neighbor to the man who was beaten?

**TEACHER:** The one who stopped and took care of him.

**JESUS:** Go and act like him.

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