

Overview

Preschool children love stories. They don't mind hearing them again and again. They will gladly tell them back to you, adding details that make sense to them. Stories help children place themselves, their feelings, and their experiences in the world.

The Gospels are master stories, the kind that can sustain us. Master stories offer hope in the midst of loss, meaning in the midst of chaos. The master story that is the Gospel has lasted because it tells how God is in our world and how much God loves us. It shows us in the person of Jesus how to live with one another.

A part of each *Seeds* lesson is always dedicated to hearing the Sunday Gospel story. This lesson focuses on the parable of the Good Samaritan. The children will listen to the Gospel and color a page that will help them tell the story to their families.

Share Experiences

Gathering Prayer: Gather in a prayer circle. Ask the children if they have anyone or anything they would like to pray about today. Sum up what each child volunteers and lead the children in the response: *God, you love us and hear our prayers.*

When everyone has had an opportunity to make a petition, pray the following or a prayer of your own. The children respond "Amen."

Loving God, we know you love us and hear our prayers. Thank you for making us part of your family. Help us learn today about Jesus, our brother. Help us be kind and loving to one another. Thank you, Loving God. Amen.

Favorite Stories: Display some picture books that you know the children are familiar with. Examples: the Madeline books, Curious George, *The Little Engine That Could*, the Little House series, Ferdinand, George and Martha, anything by Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak, Judith Viorst, Arnold Lobel, William Steig, and Ezra Jack Keats. Ask the children to take turns telling you which books they like and why. They are almost all about some small problem that gets resolved at the end.

Materials

- Copies of "The Story of The Good Samaritan" coloring page
- A Bible or the *Lectionary*
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Several children's picture books

If your time is short and you don't want to distract the children with too many titles, choose one book yourself to read aloud to the children. Comment on the problem, the resolution of the problem, and the happy ending. These stories teach children to trust in the world around them—their families, their communities, their friends and teachers.

Stretch and Hop: The children have been sitting for some time. Have them move to the open area and spread out. Ask them to stretch their fingers to the sky—high, higher, higher. Now squat on the floor; then jump up high. Squat on the floor. Jump to the left. Squat on the floor. Jump to the right. Stand and hop on the right foot—1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Hop on the left foot. Hop around the room on both feet and end up in a sitting circle in the Gospel area.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Tell the children that Jesus liked stories, too, just as they do. Jesus also liked to tell stories. Sometimes when people asked him a question, he would tell them a story and see if they could find the answer in the story. This kind of story is a parable.

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Jesus' story today is about a man who got robbed. Ask the children to listen to what happened after the robber went away. Read the story from Luke 10:25-37 from your Bible or tell this child-friendly version:

One day, a person who studied and taught others about God's law had a question for Jesus. This teacher asked, "Jesus, what must I do to go to heaven and be with God?"

Jesus said, "What does the Bible say?"

The teacher answered, "You shall love God with your whole heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and you must love your neighbor the same way you love yourself."

Jesus said, "That's right! Do this and you will live forever."

But the man had another question. "Jesus, who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus told the teacher a story. "There was a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers stopped him, took his money, beat him up, and left him for dead. After a while, a leader in the Temple walked by on that same road. He saw the man who was hurt, but he didn't stop. He went to the other side of the road, and kept going to Jerusalem. Another man, a Temple assistant, came by, too, but he didn't stop either. Finally, a man from the country of Samaria came down the road."

The teacher interrupted Jesus. "The people from Samaria are not pleasing to God. They do not keep God's laws."

"Maybe," said Jesus, "but the man from Samaria stopped. He bandaged the man's wounds, put him on his donkey, and took him to an inn. He gave money to the innkeeper and asked him to take care of the man who had been robbed and beaten. The man from Samaria promised to stop on his way back and check on everything."

Jesus' story was over, but now he had a question. "Which one of the three people who saw the hurt man was a neighbor to him?" Jesus asked.

The teacher said, "The one who stopped and took care of him."

Jesus said, "You are right. Now go and act the same way."

Ask the children any of these questions to help them remember Jesus' story:

What did the teacher at the very beginning of the story ask Jesus? *How to get to heaven.*

What did Jesus tell him? *Love God and love your neighbor.*

Did the man understand Jesus' answer? *Not really. He wanted to know who his neighbor was.*

So Jesus told a story to help the man understand his answer. How did the story start? *A man was robbed and beaten up and left by the side of the road to die.*

What happened next? *A man who was a leader at the Temple in Jerusalem came by.*

Did he stop to help? *No.*

What happened next? *A man who was a helper at the Temple came by.*

Did he help? *No.*

What happened next? *A man from Samaria came by.*

Let the children know that Samaria is a part of the country many people made fun of. They will know plenty of neighborhoods or kinds of people that others say are no good.

What did the man from Samaria do? *Fixed up the beaten man, put him on his donkey, and took him to an inn.*

Then what? *He told the innkeeper to take care of the man and when he came back he would check in on everything.*

Now Jesus asked the teacher a question. He asked him who was a good neighbor to the man who was robbed. What did the teacher say? *The good neighbor is the man from Samaria who took care of the beaten man.*

Then Jesus told the teacher to act like the man from Samaria and he would be happy with God forever.



Stretch and Sing: The children need another break before beginning the activity. Lead them in this Gospel version of “Coming Around the Mountain.”

He'll be walking to the city when he comes.
He'll be walling to the city when he comes.
He'll be walking to the city.
He'll be walking to the city.
He'll be walking to the city when he comes.

Someone robs and hurts him when he comes.
Someone robs and hurts him when he comes.
Someone robs and hurts him.
Someone robs and hurts him.
Someone robs and hurts him when he comes.

The first man who sees him runs away.
The first man who sees him runs away.
The first man who sees him.
The first man who sees him.
The first man who sees him runs away.

The second man runs faster than the first
The second man runs faster than the first.
The second man runs faster.
The second man runs faster.
The second man runs faster than the first.

Finally someone helps him. Yes, he does!
Finally someone helps him. Yes, he does!
Finally someone helps him.
Finally someone helps him.
Finally someone helps him. Yes, he does!

You should all be helpers, Jesus says.
You should all be helpers, Jesus says.
You should all be helpers.
You should all be helpers.
You should all be helpers, Jesus says.

Live the Gospel

Coloring Page: The Story of the Good Samaritan

Distribute the coloring page to the children. Talk about all the details with them. Jerusalem is at the top of the page. The beaten man and the man from Samaria are at the bottom. *Why are there cars on the road? If this story were happening today, people would be driving rather than walking.* The cars belong to the first two people who were in a hurry to get to Jerusalem and couldn't stop to help. The man who stops has opened the back of his pickup so he can get the hurt man to a doctor. The children will point out other details.

Distribute crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Tell the children they can color any part of the picture they want. Then they can take their pictures home to tell the story to their families. Enjoy talking with the children as they complete their pages.

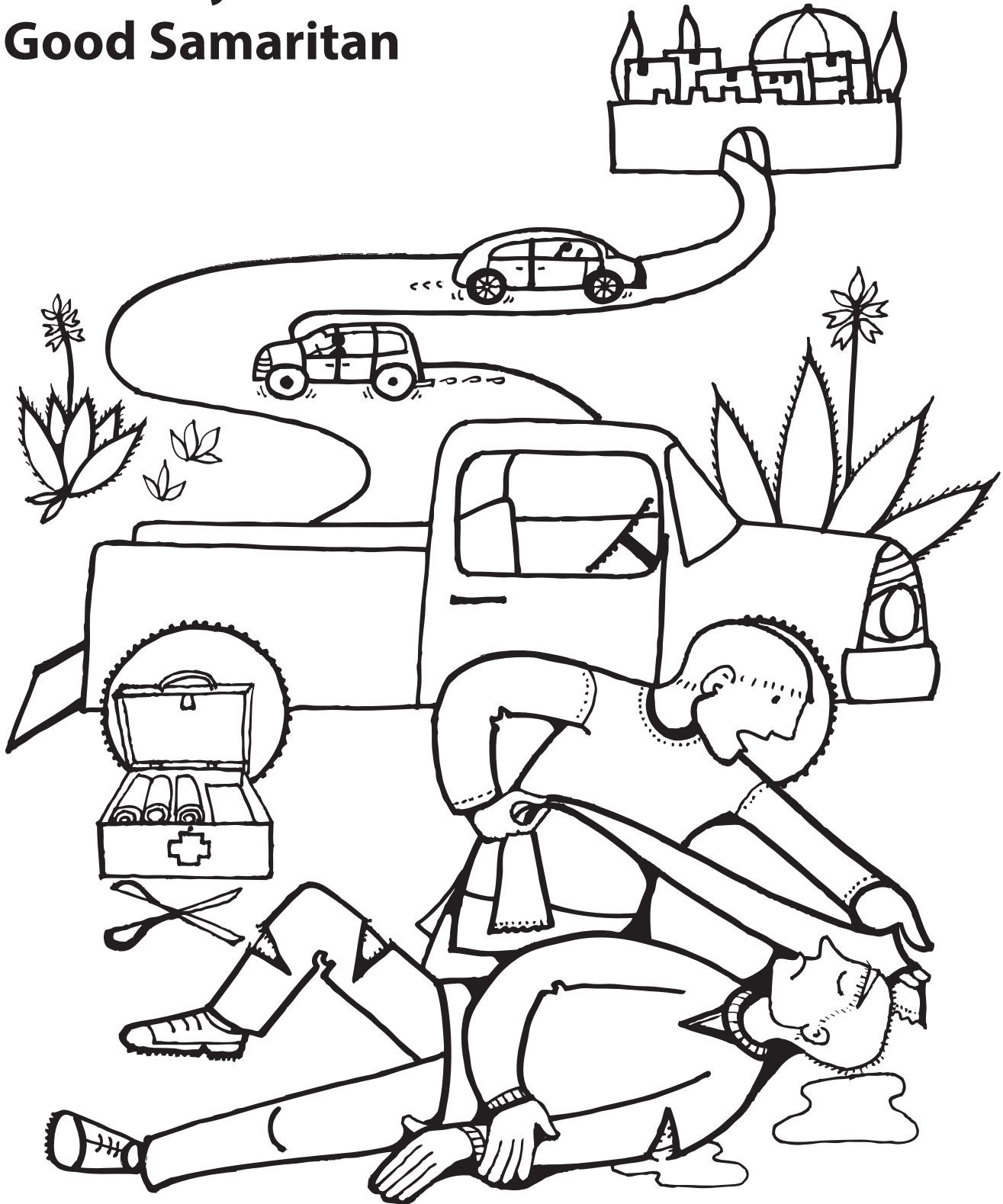
How Can I Help? Bring the lesson back to the children's own lives by asking how they help their families. Accept all answers. How do they help in *Seeds* class? When they are playing with their friends? Conclude that there are many ways to help and many opportunities to do so. We are followers of Jesus when we help.

Closing Prayer: Process around the room singing the Gospel song until you arrive at the prayer circle. Tell the children they can share thank-you prayers for anyone who helped them during your *Seeds* time. Begin by making a prayer of your own. Lead the children in the response, “Thank you for _____, Loving God.”

Name _____



The Story of the Good Samaritan



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