

Learn by Doing

Choice

The Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan

The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us about how the Lord wants us to treat other people—with compassion and kindness. The Priest and the Levite ignored the injured man. The Samaritan helped the man, tending his wounds and using his own money to pay the innkeeper to care for him. He was a true neighbor. The children will act out the parable, showing how each person treated the injured man.



1. Assign parts to children. If you do not have enough children for the parts, have each take two roles. For additional parts for a large class, add extra robbers or innkeeper helpers.
2. *Optional:* Dress the children in costumes. Give the Man on a Journey a piece of clothing that comes off easily, like a shawl or open shirt.
3. *Optional:* Hand out the props. Give the Samaritan a bag with bandages, containers, and coins in it.
4. Using *The Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan* (p. 2), read the story aloud, pausing to direct the children as they act it out.
5. If there is time, repeat the play, either with the same actors or assigning different roles.

Materials Needed

optional props: 1-2 ace bandages or strips of cloth, 2 small containers, a few coins, a bag, rope or string to mark road
optional costumes: adult-size shirts, bathrobes or shawls; scarves for the robbers

Prepare in Advance

Read through the script. Decide how to set up your acting space. You may wish to mark the two sides of the roadway using rope or string. *Optional:* gather props and costumes.

New Church Concept The Neighbor

A person is to be loved according to the quality of the good that is in him. Therefore good itself is essentially the neighbor. *True Christianity* 410

The Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan

Roles: Man on a Journey, Robbers (could be several), Priest, Levite, Samaritan, Donkey (optional), Innkeeper (could have several helpers)

Set-Up: Set up an area to be the road and a place that will be the inn. You may want to use rope or string to outline the road and chairs to show the walls of the inn.

Optional Props: 1-2 ace bandages or strips of cloth, 2 small containers, a few coins, a bag

Optional Costumes: adult-size shirts, bathrobes or shawls; scarves for the robbers

The teacher reads the story aloud, pausing to direct the action.

Story to Read	Actions
A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.	<i>The Man begins to walk down the road. The robbers come up and take off his clothes. The man falls down. (We recommend omitting violent actions.)</i>
Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.	<i>The Priest walks down the road. When he sees the hurt Man, he moves to the other side of the road and keeps going.</i>
Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.	<i>The Levite walks down the road. When he sees the hurt Man, he goes to look at him, then turns away, goes to the other side of the road and continues on his way.</i>
But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.	<i>The Samaritan comes down the road (with his Donkey). He sees the hurt Man, hurries over to him, and kneels down beside him.</i>
So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.	<i>The Samaritan opens his bag, takes out the two small containers, and pretends to pour oil and wine on the Man.</i>
And he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.	<i>The Samaritan lifts up the Man, and (together with the Donkey) leads him to the inn where the innkeeper is. The Man lies down inside the inn.</i>
On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you."	<i>The Samaritan takes two coins out of his bag and gives them to the innkeeper, pointing to the hurt Man. The Innkeeper nods in promise. The Samaritan walks off, continuing his journey (with his Donkey), and the play ends.</i>