

27. The Parable of the Good Samaritan

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

27. The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- a) There are many possibilities in this story. A simple lesson is to get children to see that someone they play with might not be a good friend/neighbor if he's mean to others, or steals, or something like that. A young child can imagine what bad things someone can do.
- b) Then there is the story itself. The visuals are so strong, but it's easy to pass them by quickly. The robbers were very rough on the poor man, hurting him so badly. Normally children don't get too upset about this—they've heard lots of stories about bad guys. Get children to imagine the man lying there, really sore and bleeding, and hoping for help. Get them to imagine what it was like for him when the priest went across the path, away from him, and left him. Emphasize that the Levite actually looked down on him lying there and then went to the other side and walked on. Why did they do that?
- c) You might think that when the Samaritan came, the poor man didn't expect to be helped. This is because the Samaritans and the Jews were not friendly. How grateful he must have been when the Samaritan did help him!
- d) The important thing, which children will learn more about later, is that in this story the Lord took on two kinds of bigotry. The Samaritans were a group that the Jews looked down on. They thought that they were much better than

the Samaritans—they often wouldn't even talk to them. Secondly, the Samaritans had a different religion, so the Jews thought they were bad because of that. So the Lord was teaching us to see that if people of different nations, or races, or religions are good, we are to respect them as our neighbors.



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The Lord Tells a Story About Who the Neighbor Is

There was a lawyer who stood up in the crowd and, wishing to test Jesus, said, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you understand it?”

Then the lawyer answering Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole mind; and the neighbor as yourself.” Then Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you shall live.” But the lawyer, wishing to prove himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

And Jesus answering said, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. And robbers attacked him and stripped him of his clothes. Having wounded him many times, they left him where he lay. He was half dead.

“Then it happened that a priest came down that same way, and seeing the hurt man, passed by on the other side.

“And in the same way a Levite came down. He looked at the hurt man, and then he passed by on the other side.

“Then a Samaritan, as he journeyed along the road, came upon the hurt man and seeing him, felt sorry for him. Coming near, he bandaged up the man’s wounds, pouring in oil and wine. Then the Samaritan sat the man on his own donkey and brought him to an inn. There he took care of him. And when the Samaritan left the inn the next day, he took out two coins and gave them to the owner and said to him, “Take care of him, and whatever you spend more than this money, when I come back I will pay you.””

Then Jesus said to the lawyer, “Which of these three men do you think was the neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?” And the lawyer said, “The one who helped the hurt man.”

Jesus said to the lawyer, “Go, and do the same.”

Luke 10

