

# “I Was a Stranger...”

## Level A

**The Good Samaritan**  
**Luke 10:29-37**

Ages 3-6

**Series Theme:** You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

**Lesson Focus:** We stop treating people like strangers when we treat them as neighbors.

**Reading Summary:** Jesus said, “A man went from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves met him on the road, took his clothes, wounded him, and left him half dead. A priest came down the road, saw him, and passed by on the other side. A Levite also came and saw him and passed by. But when a Samaritan saw him, he had compassion and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He put him on his animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. When the Samaritan left he paid the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more I will pay you when I return.’” Jesus asked, “Which of these was neighbor?” The lawyer said, “He who showed mercy.” Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”

<h1>Lesson 3</h1>		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
<b>1. Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Broken Hearted</b> directions p. 2	red paper, scissors, tape
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word and Talk About It</b>	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 2	Bible or copy of Luke 10:29-37
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<b>Act It Out</b> use simple props and costumes to recreate the story of the Good Samaritan	<b>The Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan</b> directions p. 3 <i>The Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan</i> p. 6	space to act <i>optional props:</i> 1-2 ace bandages or strips of cloth, 2 small containers, a few coins, bag, rope or string to mark the roadway  <i>optional costumes:</i> adult-size shirts, bathrobes or shawls; scarves for the robbers
	<b>Make and Play</b> create finger puppets for the parable characters and follow footprint trails showing where they went	<b>Footprints for Finger Puppets</b> directions pp. 3-4 <i>Footprints Background</i> p. 7 <i>Puppet Figures</i> p. 8	stiff paper for printing, tape, crayons or markers <i>optional:</i> bags to carry projects home
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>The Good Samaritan</b> p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce the memory verse for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 10	

# 1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

## Broken Hearted

*Supplies needed:* red paper, scissors, tape

*Prepare ahead of time:* cut out a big red paper heart that is large enough to tear up and tape together as a group.

Show the children the red heart you have made. Tell them that the red heart is a reminder of the heart that is inside each one of us. Our hearts pump blood in our bodies and keep us alive. When people say unkind things to us we feel sad or hurt. We call this feeling being “broken hearted”.

For example, if you are singing a happy song and someone says, “Stop singing!” you may feel sad. (Tear a piece off the heart.) Or, “You just messed up my clean floor!” (Tear off another piece.) How about, “Your picture is messy.” “You can’t do it by yourself.” “You aren’t doing it right.” (Tear the heart into as many pieces as there are children in the group.)

How do you think the person with this heart would feel? Have you ever felt that way? Can you think of ways to make the person with this heart feel better? Can you think of something kind to say? Each time a child says something kind to help the person feel better, let him or her choose a piece of the heart and help tape it back together. Continue until the heart is “fixed”.

## 2. Focus on the Word

**Read:** Luke 10:29-37. See teaching picture on p. 5. Many other teaching pictures are available online, e.g. [www.bitly.com/SMLuke10](http://www.bitly.com/SMLuke10).

**In our last story we talked about a woman from Samaria. This time we heard about a man from Samaria. He is called a Samaritan. When the Lord was on earth people treated Samaritans like strangers because they had different customs, or ways of doing things.**

**What happened to the man walking along the road?** Robbers took his clothes, hurt him and ran away.

**Who saw him first?** A priest. **Did he help?** No. He walked by on the other side. **The priest knew that the Lord said to help other people. Did he do what he knew was right?** No.

**Who saw him next?** A Levite. **Did he help?** No. He walked by on the other side. **The Levite knew that the Lord said to help other people. Did he do what he knew was right?** No.

**Who came and helped the man?** A Samaritan. **Even though everyone who lived in that place would have treated the Samaritan as a stranger, he had compassion and stopped to help. Having compassion means he wanted to help him feel better. Let’s say “compassion” together.**

**What did the Samaritan do?** He bandaged his wounds and used oil and wine as medicines for the wounds. Afterwards he took the injured man to an inn where he could be cared for until he was better. He paid the innkeeper and offered to pay more if it was needed.

**The Samaritan did not know the injured man. They were strangers. But the Lord called the Samaritan a “neighbor” to the injured man because he helped him.**

**We treat other people like strangers when we leave them out and do not include them in what we are doing. Samaritans were treated like strangers. They were left out by others. The Lord wants us to include other people and treat them as neighbors and friends.**

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

## 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. 6), 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.

## Choice

### Footprints for Finger Puppets

At the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Lord directs the lawyer to “go and do likewise”—that is, to be like the Good Samaritan. In this activity, children make finger puppets of the Priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan and trace the footsteps each followed when they came down the road and saw the injured man lying there. In this way, they can practice “walking” in the Samaritan’s footsteps.

1. Hand each child the three puppets and remind them of who each character was. Have the children color the figures.
2. Help children to get their fingers in the holes and show them how to “walk” on the table or floor.
3. Hand out the background picture and point out the injured man lying beside the road.
4. Show the three sets of footprints and trace them with your finger, saying the name of the person with each set of prints. Then have children put on each finger puppet in turn and “walk” the character along.

#### 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

#### Materials Needed for Each Child

*Footprints Background* p. 7 and *Puppet Figures* p. 8 copied on stiff paper, tape, crayons or markers, *optional:* bag to carry project home

#### Prepare in Advance

Print the *Footprints Background* and *Puppet Figures* pp. 7-8 on stiff paper. Cut around the rectangular puppet shapes using a paper cutter or scissors. Fold puppets on the dashed line and cut out the finger holes.



## Footprints for Finger Puppets *continued*

5. The Priest came along first. His footprints are the dark gray ones. When he saw the hurt man he went to the other side of the road.
6. The Levite came second. His footprints are medium gray. When he saw the hurt man he went closer to look at him, but then turned back to the other side of the road and walked away.
7. The Samaritan came along last. His footprints are light gray. When he saw the hurt man, he went over and knelt down beside him. He helped the hurt man, even though he did not know who he was.
8. The story can be repeated.
9. If time allows, have the children color the background picture.



### New Church Concept The Stranger

The stranger signifies people who are outside the church.... They are just as capable of being purified as those inside the church. They are purified when they put aside impure loves and live...in charity. *Arcana Coelestia* 2049

#### Choice

### Coloring Picture: The Good Samaritan

Hand out copies of *The Good Samaritan* (p. 9) and invite the children to color it.

#### Materials Needed

copies of *The Good Samaritan* p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

## 4. Wrap It Up

### Memory Verse

We are building the Memory Verse of Matthew 25:35-36, phrase by phrase. Teach phrase three and review phrases one and two, below. The recitation has been set to music with actions for easy learning. Watch online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song-actions-to-memorize/>. The video repeats the song three times.

**For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in.**

**Matthew 25:35**

### Closing

Let's all hold hands and make a circle. Now we are all connected! The Lord's love is flowing around the circle to each one of us. Let's take that love and share it with all of our neighbors this week.

**Give Parent Notes (p. 10) to children as they leave.**



# 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)

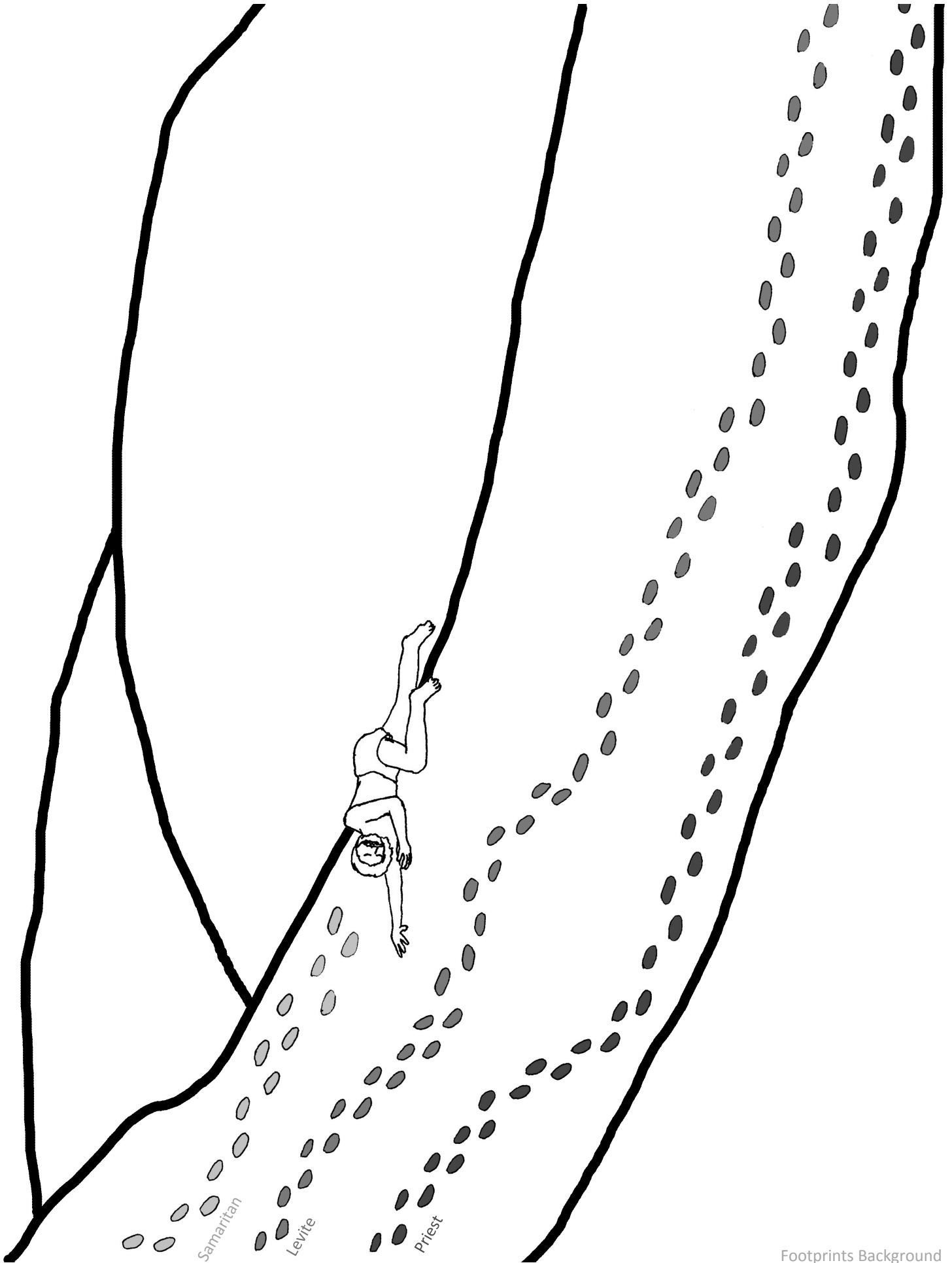
**Set-Up:** Set up an area to be the road and a place that will be the inn. You may want to use rope or string to outline the road and chairs to show the walls of the inn.

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

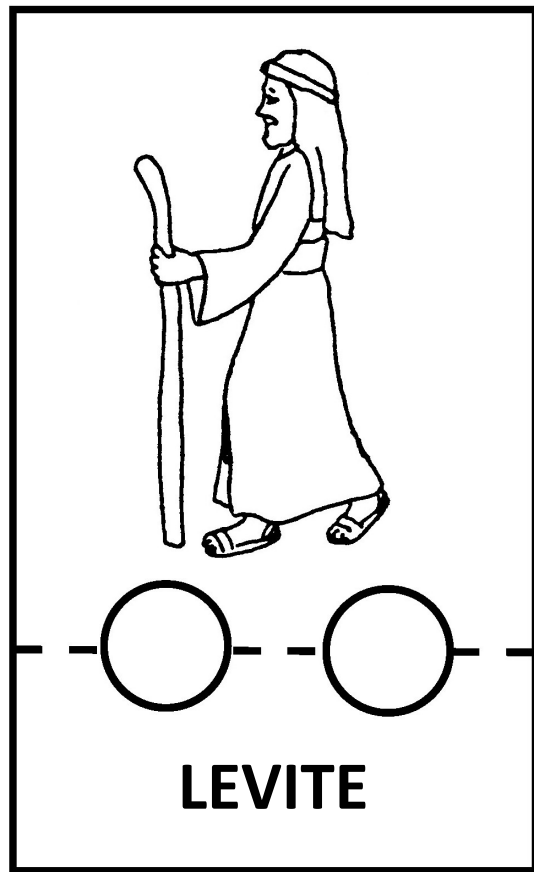
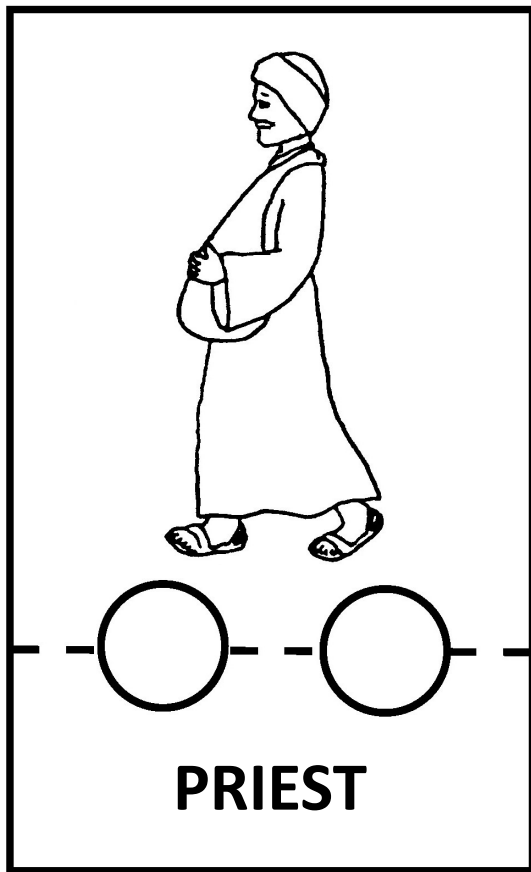
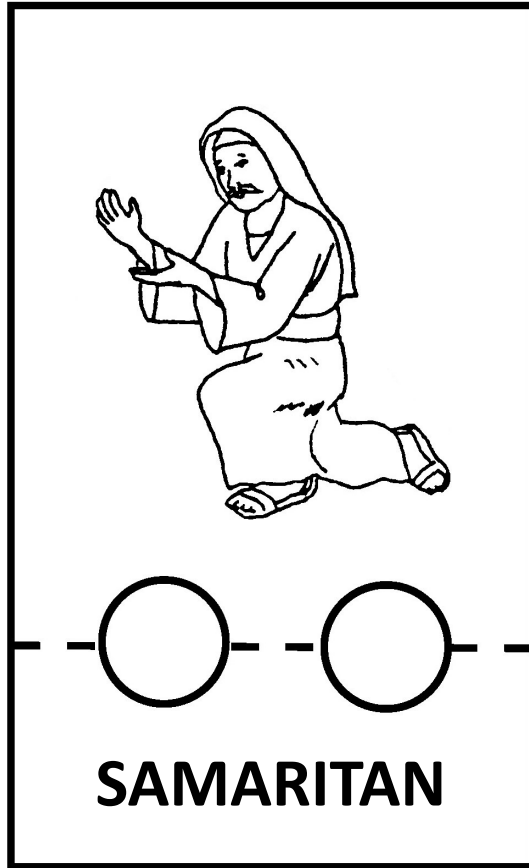
**Optional Costumes:** adult-size shirts, bathrobes or shawls; scarves for the robbers

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>



Footprints Background







The Good Samaritan

## Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

### PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,  
 Today we learned about the Good Samaritan.  
 Your family can watch a song about this story  
 online at [https://  
 www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-  
 the-good-samaritan-song/](https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-good-samaritan-song/).  
 We have added a new phrase to our Memory  
 Verse. We encourage you to help your child  
 learn the verse by repeating the phrase below  
 in the morning, at mealtimes, or before bed.  
 You can also watch a song with these words at  
[https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/  
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### Memory Verse

For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was  
 thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger  
 and you took Me in. (Matthew 25:35)

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