

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-35

The parable of the compassionate Samaritan appears only in Luke 10:30–35. Jesus tells the parable in response to a lawyer’s question about the greatest commandment; this question also appears in the Gospels of Mark (12:28–34) and Matthew (22:34–40), though without the story of the Samaritan.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today’s lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today’s story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today’s parable offered below.

Whether you read the presentation or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s presentation, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the parables can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Parables cannot ever be all used up. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

The Presentation

There was once someone who did such amazing things and said such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him they heard him speaking of many things. Sometimes people asked him questions.

One day a person asked him what the most important thing in life is. Jesus said, “You already know.”

“That is true. I do. It is to love God and to love people just like they are your neighbors.” The person paused a while and thought. He then asked another question, “But who is my neighbor?”

Jesus then told this parable.

“There was once someone who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho. He was attacked by robbers. They hurt him, took everything that he had, and left him by the side of the road half dead.

Wondering

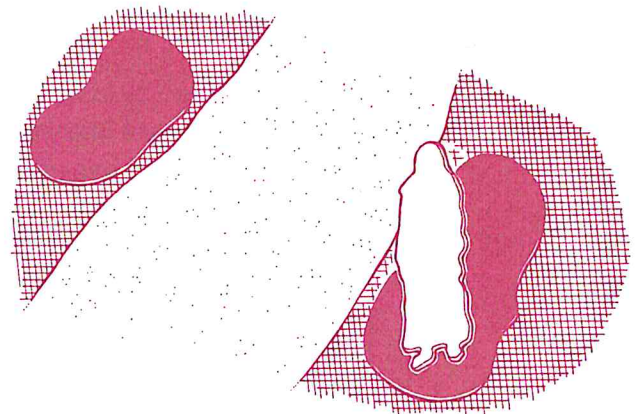
- **I wonder** who is the neighbor to the person who was hurt, had everything taken from him, and was left by the side of the road half dead?
- **I wonder** what would happen if the people in the parable were women and not men?
- **I wonder** what would happen if the person finding the injured traveler were a child?

“There was also a priest of the temple who went on the road from Jerusalem down to Jericho. He came upon the person who had been hurt, had everything taken from him, and had been left by the side of the road half dead. But the priest went to the other side and went along his way.

“There was also someone else who worked at the temple who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho. He was one of the people who helped the priests. He was called a Levite. When the Levite came upon the person who had been hurt, had everything taken from him, and had been left half dead, he went to the other side, and he went along his way.

“There also was a person who went on the road who did not live in Jerusalem. He was visiting from a country called Samaria. The people in Samaria did not like the people in Jerusalem, and the people in Jerusalem did not like the people from Samaria.

“When the stranger came upon the person who had been hurt, had everything taken from him, and had been left half dead, the stranger went to him.



“The stranger put medicine on the places where the person was hurt. He put his coat on him. He then put him on his donkey and took him to a place to spend the night. The stranger even stayed with him all the night, and in the morning he gave the innkeeper enough money for him to stay there until he was well.”

Godly Play A Godly Play Moment

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose.

Occasionally, as in today's paper, we share a “Godly Play moment” drawn from the Godly Play community.

The violent events of this parable can sometimes disturb children. Di Pagel, an experienced Godly Play storyteller and trainer,

recalls a time when one boy turned to another and pushed him hard, saying, “That’s what I’d do.”

Instead of focusing on the child’s disruption, Di paused in her storytelling, raised her eyes to all the children and said, calmly, “I wonder how it felt for that man to be hurt by the robbers.”