

## Week 24 Family Letter

# Jesus Says to Show Mercy: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

(Luke 10:25-37)

A man walked down along the road. Robbers came after him. They took his money and hurt him. He yelled, "I need some help. Oh, someone please! I'm begging you. I'm on my knees."

The sun beat down on the man. He hurt all over. A little while later, he heard someone coming down the road. It was a priest! He said, "I need some help. Oh, someone please! I'm begging you. I'm on my knees."

But the priest didn't stop to help the hurt man. A little while later, the man heard someone else coming. It was someone else who worked at the temple! He barely had the strength to talk anymore. He whispered, "I need some help. Oh, someone please! I'm begging you. I'm on my knees."

But the Levite didn't stop to help the hurt man. The man felt so weak and tired. He felt like falling asleep. But just then, he thought he heard another noise. Was he dreaming? Or was it a man with a donkey? He couldn't even talk anymore. He mouthed the words, "I need some help. Oh, someone please! I'm begging you. I'm on my knees." The kind Samaritan didn't even need to hear the man beg for mercy. He knew this man needed help. He stopped, got off his donkey, and took care of the hurt man. He was a good neighbor.

### Bible Words

Love your neighbor.

Mark 12:31

## Dear Family,

Look at the picture with your child. Ask, "Who needs help?" Let them point, and explain what happened if they can. Or review for them that other people hurt the man and took his money. Ask, "What does he need? What would help him?" Perhaps they know that he should be taken to a doctor. Finally, ask, "Who helped him?" Let them point to the Good Samaritan and color in *how* the Samaritan helped the hurt man. He poured oil and wine on the wounds (that's what they did back then), wrapped them up, set him on his donkey, and even took him to an inn and paid for someone to nurse him back to health.

The Good Samaritan did this for someone who was an enemy (because of what ethnic group he came from). Praise your children when they help someone else in need. Encourage them to be on the lookout for those who need a friend. Use words like *good neighbor*, *kindness*, and *mercy*. Make it a family project to go on a "Samaritan Search." Unfortunately, we are usually more like the priest and Levite than the Good Samaritan. Thank God that Jesus became the Good Samaritan for us. He gave His life for us, when we were His enemies. He gave us new life when we were dead in our sins. Read the story on page 364 of *The Story Bible* together.



## Week 25 Family Letter

# God Provides for His Children: The Widow's Mite

(Luke 21:1-4)

Plink! Plink! Plink! Plink! Plink! Plink!  
Temple offerings go "Cha-chink!"  
Rich men want the world to see  
All their money. "Look at me!"  
Jesus told His friends to look  
At the coins a widow took.  
Her coins only went plink, plink.  
But her gift's better, don't you think?  
She gave all the coins she had.  
Loving Jesus made her glad.  
Like the widow, trust in Him,  
Even if your money's slim.  
We know Jesus will provide.  
All our needs will be supplied.  
Love the Lord with all your strength.  
Cheerfully go to great lengths.

### Bible Words

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

### Dear Family,

Look at the Bible picture. Ask your child to point to Jesus. Explain that Jesus is talking to the disciples, His friends. He wants them to notice what the woman is doing. Ask your child to color the picture of the temple treasury and the widow's coins. Does your child know what she is doing? She is giving money to church.

What's so special about what she's doing is that she is giving Jesus everything she has. That's all her money! She is so thankful to God that she wants to give a gift back to Him. It's called an offering. She's not worried about not having any money left, because she knows God will take care of her.

What a strong faith not to worry about money! What a strong faith to be that grateful to God for all of His blessings! Is God telling you to sell everything you have and give the money to the church? God is telling you to have an attitude of gratitude. He loves and cares for us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our forgiveness, so that we would inherit the riches of heaven. What does that make your family feel like doing? Consider how your family can make it a habit to daily give God thanks and to weekly collect money for an offering. Perhaps you're wealthy and you didn't even know it! Read the story on page 386 of *The Story Bible* together.