

Week 21

The Good Samaritan

A lawyer asked Jesus an important question. Jesus told this story to help the man understand what it means to show God's love to others.

Jesus said, "A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. Suddenly, robbers attacked him. They beat him and left him on the side of the road. The man was very badly hurt.

"Soon, a church leader, a priest, was going down the road. He saw the man, but he didn't stop. He didn't help. Instead, he passed by on the other side. The very same thing happened when another man, a Levite who worked in the church, walked on by.

"But when a third man, a Samaritan, came by, things changed. (*) The Samaritan felt sorry for the hurt man. He cleaned his sores and wrapped them with bandages. He put the man on his animal and took him to an inn to rest and get well.

"The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper some money. 'Take care of the man,' said the Samaritan. 'If you need more money, I will pay you when I come back.'"

Then Jesus asked, "Which man do you think was a good neighbor to the man who was robbed?"

The lawyer said, "The one who was kind and showed mercy."

Jesus simply said, "Go and do that too."

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

In the biblical account in Luke 10:25-37, whom do you identify with? No one wants to identify with the robbers or the two men who walked by without helping. Too often we like to identify with the person who needs help. But, as He is represented by the Good Samaritan, Jesus wants us to identify with Him, as He says, "Go and do likewise." (Also see Ephesians 5:1.)

Bible Words

We love because
He first loved us.

1 John 4:19





Dear Family,

You probably know the story or have heard the phrase “a good Samaritan.” In this Bible story, Jesus shows what selfless love looks like. He taught that true love includes mercy to all, just as God’s love includes mercy for all. Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 364–366 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

Selfless love comes to us through Jesus. He is the Good Samaritan. He found us beat up by our sins and unable to help ourselves. Jesus has wrapped us in His sacrificial love and paid for our eternal care through His death and resurrection. We are healed and sent on our way to serve others, following His example of love to us.

As a family, learn the Bible Words. Consider ways to show God’s love to your neighbors. Consider ways to show thanks to God and to others who show mercy to you.

Make mercy packs to distribute to the homeless. In a plastic zippered bag, put a snack bar, a toothbrush, toothpaste, hand cleanser, soap, and a small bag of tissues. The next time you stop at an intersection and find someone who needs your help, reach for the zippered bag to share with someone who needs help and mercy.