

General Church Education



The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Lesson 1

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

For Parents and Teachers

The first lesson introduces the theme for the year: “The Lord is our Lawgiver and Divine Provider.” In this story from the New Testament the Lord Himself, when He was on earth, provided answers to crucial questions and guided people’s lives by directing them to His eternal laws. The simple lesson of this story is that acting from mercy and kindness are important spiritual laws. When they are done from our love to the Lord they bring us heavenly delight.

The inspiration to do good things and act kindly towards the neighbor comes from the Lord. He also asks us to consider our neighbor’s needs and act with charity in all that we do. He alerts us to people in need and shows us ways to support and care for them. The Lord’s teachings about charity also help us to understand how we can offer the kind of assistance which will be most useful. To be genuine, charity calls for acts of love and kindness but also goes much deeper. The Writings for the New Church contains teachings that illustrate how we can bring charity into our lives more fully. They explain how we can love the neighbor and what this means in our journey toward heaven. They teach that charity is from the Lord alone, inspiring us to serve the neighbor.

The focus of this lesson is the story of the Good Samaritan, a powerful parable teaching about love and charity. We see the mercy and compassion of the Samaritan, giving tender care to someone in need. We hope you will inspire you with new ways of thinking and responding to the Lord’s call to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Ideas for Children

- Loving the Lord and the neighbor is the most important thing in life.
- Looking for the good in our neighbors is loving them.
- The Lord helps us do good.

From the Writings

Since the good in each individual is different, it follows that the quality of that good determines on what level and how anyone is the neighbor. This fact is obvious from the Lord’s parable about the man who fell into the hands of robbers, and a priest, as well as a Levite, went past him as he lay half-dead. But the Samaritan, after binding up his wounds and pouring oil and wine into them, lifted him onto his own animal and took him to an inn, and gave orders that he should be looked after. This man is called the neighbor, because he exercised the good of charity (Luke 10:29-37). This shows that the neighbor means those in a state of good. The oil and wine which the Samaritan poured into his wounds also stand for good and the truth from it. *Heavenly Doctrine* 87

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Words to Understand

parable—a natural story with a heavenly meaning

compassion—a natural story with a heavenly meaning

justify—to free from blame or give a good explanation

eternal—never ending; everlasting

Samaritan—person who lived in Samaria, between Judah and Galilee; despised by Jewish people

denarii—an ancient form of money, silver coins

mercy—forgiveness, kindness and compassion

The Lord Teaches Us

When the Lord was in the world many people followed Him. Men, women and children gathered in large crowds when He came into a town because they longed to hear what He had to say. He spoke like no one else. His teaching reached their heads and their hearts. When Jesus taught, He showed them how to live good lives because He wanted them to be truly happy. The Lord wants everyone to be happy and to live with Him forever in heaven. That is why He came to live on earth and that is why He caused His Word to be written. Through His Word, the Lord continues to teach everyone for all time. In this story the main truth He wants us to learn is about being helpful and kind to others because part of that is loving our neighbor.

Parables

Sometimes the Lord told parables or stories that have a spiritual message inside them. Often we can better understand an idea when it is presented in a story. In this story the Lord told a parable in answer to a question. As the Lord and His disciples traveled in the countryside, a Jewish lawyer came up to Him and tried to test Him with the question, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” **Read Luke 10:25-37.**

How did the Lord answer this man’s ques-



tion? He made the lawyer answer his own question from the law. Of course, the lawyer knew it well and answered with our recitation, which is one of the Lord's most important laws:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”
Luke 10:27

The lawyer wanted to justify himself or to feel that he was keeping the law and was free from any blame. He probably wanted the Lord to tell him that his neighbors were the people of his own religion and even of his own friends. Instead the Lord told this parable and again made him answer his own question. Notice that the Lord, instead of telling the man who his neighbor was, told him how he could be a good neighbor to another. The man didn't expect this answer but it is what he needed to hear .

The Parable

The lawyer and the other people listening could easily picture this story about a man traveling on a lonely road from one city to another. They were familiar with the land and knew that this road was a downward slope from the high hills of the city of Jerusalem to the low valley where the town of Jericho stood. The road was rough and rocky in the hot, desert landscape. Does this sound like a good place for robbers to attack? Yes, it was not unusual for lonely travelers to be attacked by robbers on this road. The man in this story was attacked, robbed, and left half dead.

Several people passed by and saw the poor man, but only one offered any help. Did the priest, a respected religious leader, help the man? No, he passed by on the other side. Did the Levite, a person who belonged to the tribe of Levi and was also a respected leader of the Jews, offer to help? No, he came and took a look, then continued on his way. But a Samaritan, one of a group of people hated by the Jews because they were different from them, stopped when he saw the injured man and took care of him. He knew the right thing to do was to help people when they needed it.

The Samaritan Stops to Help

The Samaritan had compassion for the man. He felt sorry for him and wanted to help. The Samaritan bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine to help him heal, and then took him on his own horse or donkey to a shelter. The kindly Samaritan made sure the man was comfortable. He even stayed all night at the inn to take care of the wounded man. In the morning, the Samaritan gave the inn keeper two denarii, money worth a day's pay, to continue the man's care when he had to leave. Can you imagine how thankful the wounded man must have felt toward the Samaritan who had



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saved his life?

When the Lord asked the lawyer which one was neighbor to the man who fell among thieves, the lawyer had to answer that it was the one who showed mercy to him. The Lord's message was, "Go and do likewise."

The Lord Wants Us to Help Others

We will probably never travel that same road from Jerusalem to Jericho, but we will travel other roads in our life and from time to time will meet people in need of help. How is the Lord asking us to treat people who are sad or sick or lonely or hurt? What will you do when you see someone needing help at school, at home, or in your neighborhood? Will you stop and help or will you just keep walking by?

We may think a neighbor is only someone who lives near us. But really a neighbor is anyone that we feel close to. Love makes all people neighbors. And it is through loving that we can feel compassion and mercy. Let's look for opportunities to "Go and do likewise."



Discussion Ideas

- Talk about politeness. Good manners and respectfulness are a way of acting charitably towards other people.
- What are things you could do to put charity into action? Think of ways to help family, friends or neighbors.
- The lawyer probably would not have guessed the Samaritan would be a good neighbor because Jews made false judgements about Samaritans. The Lord wants us to find what is good in others. We need to get to know people before forming opinions about them. If we judge others by their looks we can easily make false judgements about them.

Activity Overview | The Good Samaritan

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

So he answered and said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”
Luke 10:27

Songs

The Good Samaritan

Listen and download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-good-samaritan/>

I'm Joseph Your Brother

Listen and download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-im-joseph-your-brother/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Water or Band-Aid Relay
- Activity 2 | Secret Samaritans
- Picture to color—The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch a video of *The Good Samaritan* song
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-good-samaritan-song/>
- Be a secret angel. Choose a person to help each day for a week. Think of ways you can help without having the person know. Be a friend to a classmate. Take out the trash, empty the dishwasher, sweep the floor.
- Write about a time you helped someone. Include what you did, and how the other person responded.



Activity 1 | Water or Band-Aid Relay

Get in the spirit of helping others through an active relay game. Choose whether to drink water or put on a band aid.

Drink of Water Relay

Materials Needed

- table to put cups on
- pitcher
- small disposable cups
- water
- space to run a distance

Do Ahead of Time

Fill cups half full with water, making sure you have enough cups for the number of children in your group. Set up space for two groups of children to run from a starting line to the drink table safely—possibly outside, or in a longer hallway.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into teams. Players from each team take turns running from the starting line to the water table, drinking a small cup of water, and running back to the starting line. Once players reach the starting line, a team-mate starts running to the water table. Continue until all players have had a cup of water.

Band-Aid Relay

Materials Needed

- enough Band-Aids for each child to have one (For extra fun, use children's Band-Aids with pictures on them!) *Note:* be aware that some are allergic to latex Band-Aids. Latex-free Band-Aids are available at most pharmacies.
- table to place Band-Aids on
- space to run a distance

Do Ahead of Time

Set up space for two groups of children to run from a starting line to the Band-Aid table safely—possibly outside, or in a longer hallway.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into teams. Players from each team take turns running from the starting line to the Band-Aid table, unwrapping and putting a Band-Aid on their arm or leg, and running back to the starting line. Once players reach the starting line, a team-mate starts running to the Band-Aid table. Continue until all players are wearing Band-Aids.

Activity 2 | Secret Samaritans

Practice being a neighbor to others by creating a small surprise gift to give to someone you think needs love e.g. picture, something found in nature, something handmade, stickers, etc. Place the gift inside a woven heart basket and leave it on someone's bed, at someone's place at the table, in a backpack, in a sleeve of their coat, etc. when they are not watching.



Materials Needed

two pieces of paper in contrasting colors, e.g. green and yellow
scissors
pencil
copy of stencil (over)



Do Ahead of Time

Each heart takes two half sheets of 8.5 x 11" (21.5 x 28 cm) paper. Fold paper half widthwise. Cut to approximate size to fit the stencil.

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Directions

1. Take two folded pieces of paper in contrasting colors, a stencil, paper and scissors.
2. Choose one of the two colors. Lay the stencil over the folded paper.
3. Cut around the stencil. Cut along the lines inside the stencil. Be sure to cut all the way to the top. If you do not, you will not be able to finish assembling the project.
4. Repeat these steps with the second color. You will now have two pieces like this.
5. Lay the two pieces next to each other. Open the fold in the strand on the right and put the first strand on the left through it.
6. Open the second strand on the left and insert the strand on the right through it. Repeat step five. Continue weaving the heart until all strands are woven in.
7. You should be able to open the completed heart to put something inside.



Woven Hearts Stencil



