

The Good Samaritan

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God wants me to be kind and help people.

Bible passage: Luke 10:25–37. Read it yourself before class.

Memory verse: "Go, and do thou likewise." *Luke 10:37 (KJV)*. The old word **likewise** means the same way: go and help too.

You need: a Bible, a stuffed animal or doll, a few strips of cloth or adhesive bandages, two coins, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 10. Lay the stuffed animal on the floor as the "hurt man."

1. Opening game: Bandage Helpers (5 minutes)

Show the kids the stuffed animal. Say: "Oh no, Bear is hurt!" Let each child take a turn wrapping a cloth strip around Bear's arm or leg, or putting on a bandage. Say: "You were good helpers! Today we will hear a true story Jesus told about a man who stopped to help."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 10. Say: "Jesus told this story. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A man asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*

Jesus told a story. A man was walking on a road (10:30). *(Walk in place.)*

Bad men called thieves hurt him. He could not get up (10:30). *(Make a sad face.)*

A priest came by. He walked by on the other side (10:31). *(Walk two fingers past.)*

A Levite came. He looked, and he walked by too (10:32). *(Walk two fingers past.)*

Say it with me: "Who will help?"

Then a Samaritan came. He saw the man. He felt sorry for him (10:33). *(Hand on your heart.)*

He put oil and wine on the hurts. He wrapped them up (10:34). *(Wrap your arm.)*

He put the man on his own animal. He took him to an inn, a place to stay (10:34). *(Bounce like you are riding.)*

He took care of him (10:34). *(Hug yourself.)*

The next day he gave two coins to the man at the inn (10:35). *(Hold up two fingers.)*

Say it with me: "He was a good neighbor!"

Jesus said, "Go, and do thou likewise." That means, "You go and help too" (10:37). *(Point out.)*

Say it with me: "I can help!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who was hurt? (*A man on the road, Luke 10:30*)
2. Who walked by? (*A priest and a Levite, 10:31–32*)
3. Who stopped to help? (*The Samaritan, 10:33*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Go, and do thou likewise.' That means, 'Go and help like the Samaritan did.'" Teach the motion: walk in place on "Go," then hold out both hands like you are giving something on "do thou likewise." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 10:37" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: I Can Help (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw one way they can help someone this week: carrying something for Mom, sharing a toy, or picking up toys. While they color, ask: "Who stopped to help the hurt man? Who can you help?" Kids who finish early can take turns caring for the hurt stuffed animal again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for loving me.

Help me be kind and help others. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, act out the walking-by part again with your fingers. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about helping a stranger: answer simply and safely. Little ones help by telling a grown-up right away. Grown-ups do the stopping. Kids can help the people they know every day.

