

The Good Samaritan

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Anyone who needs help is my neighbor, and God wants me to show them mercy.

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

Memory verse: "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." *Luke 10:27 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible, 5 index cards, a marker, two coins, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: a few strips of cloth to act out the story.

Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 10:25.

1. Opening game: Freeze and Help Tag (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or two taggers. Anyone who is tagged freezes with one hand out. A frozen player can move again only when another player stops, kneels and "bandages" their arm by gently wrapping a hand around it. Play a few rounds. Then ask: *Did you have to stop running to help someone? Was it worth it? Say:* "Today Jesus tells a story about a man who stopped to help when others walked right by."

2. Bible story: Who Is My Neighbor? (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 10, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day a **lawyer**, a man who studied God's law, stood up to test Jesus. He asked, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" That means, "What must I do to live forever with God?" (Luke 10:25). Jesus asked him, "What is written in the law?" (10:26). The man answered: love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind, and love your neighbor as much as you love yourself (10:27). Jesus said, "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." That means, "You are right. Do this, and you will live" (10:28).

But the man wanted to show that he was right, so he asked, "**And who is my neighbour?**" (10:29). Jesus answered with a story.

A man was going down the road from **Jerusalem** to **Jericho**. Thieves jumped on him. They took his clothes, hurt him, and went away. They left him lying by the road, half dead (10:30). He could not help himself.

A **priest** came down that same road. A priest served God and offered the gifts at God's house. When the priest saw the hurt man, he walked by on the other side of the road (10:31). Then a **Levite** came. Levites were helpers at God's house (Numbers 3:6). He came and looked at the man, and then he walked by on the other side too (10:32).



The story continues: Then a **Samaritan** came along. Samaritans were people from a nearby land, and most Jews and Samaritans did not get along (John 4:9). But when the Samaritan saw the hurt man, he had **compassion**. That means he felt sorry for him and wanted to help (10:33).

The Samaritan went right to him. He poured oil and wine on the man's hurts and wrapped them up with bandages. He set the man on his own animal and brought him to an **inn**, a place where travelers could stay. And he took care of him (10:34). The next day, before he left, the Samaritan took out two coins (the Bible calls them "two pence") and gave them to the man in charge of the inn. **Hold up the two coins**. He said, "Take care of him. If you spend more, I will pay you back when I come again" (10:35).

Then Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three was a neighbor to the man who was hurt?" (10:36). **Read Luke 10:37 from your Bible:** "And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise." Say: "**Shewed mercy** means showed kindness to someone who needed it. **Do thou likewise** means, 'You go and do the same thing.'"

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What happened to the man on the road? (*Thieves took his clothes, hurt him and left him half dead, Luke 10:30*)
2. Who walked by on the other side? (*A priest and a Levite, 10:31–32*)
3. Who stopped to help? (*A Samaritan, 10:33*)
4. What did the Samaritan do for the man? (*He bandaged his hurts with oil and wine, put him on his own animal, took him to an inn and took care of him, 10:34*)
5. What did Jesus tell the lawyer to do? (*"Go, and do thou likewise," 10:37*)

4. Memory verse: Heart, Soul, Strength, Mind (5 minutes)

Write the verse on 5 cards: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God / with all thy heart, / and with all thy soul, / and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; / and thy neighbour as thyself. Luke 10:27.* (Begin with "And he answering said" when you read the whole verse; it means "the lawyer answered.") Explain the old words: **thou shalt** means you must, **thy** means your, **soul** means all of who you are inside, **neighbour** is the old way to spell neighbor, and **as thyself** means as much as you love yourself. Add motions: hands up to God, hand on heart, hug yourself, flex your arms and point to your head, then point to a friend. Read it together, then turn one card over each round until the kids can say it all.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The Samaritan showed mercy to a man who could not help himself. God shows mercy to us too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: find one person who needs help or a friend, and help them without being asked. Tell your family about it.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Good Samaritan word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/good-samaritan-word-search), the Good Samaritan coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/good-samaritan), or **Act It Out**: choose kids to be the hurt man, the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan and the man in charge of the inn. Read the story out loud while they act it, with cloth strips for bandages and the two coins. Play it again with new actors so everyone gets a turn.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for loving us and showing us mercy in Jesus. Help us see people who need help and be kind to them, even when it is hard or costs us something. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks, "Should I stop and help a stranger?": answer simply and safely. Kids help best by telling a trusted grown-up right away: a parent, a teacher or a police officer. Grown-ups can do the stopping. Kids can be good neighbors every day by helping and including the people around them.