The Good Samaritan

Bible Story
Luke 10:25-37

Teacher Challenge
The two people who passed by the injured man were religious leaders, probably on their way to the Temple, where they would teach about God and His laws. Yet as much as they knew, they failed to put their knowledge into practice. Only the Samaritan, a hated foreigner, was moved by compassion to stop and help the injured man. Only the Samaritan did not worry about the injured man’s cleanliness, religion or nationality. The Samaritan simply saw someone who needed help, so he helped.

➡ Do you find it difficult to help certain kinds of people? Why?
➡ How have you shown God’s love to others?

Like the Samaritan, you can live out God’s love. Teaching young children is very demanding and exhausting, and it would be easy to ignore those you find troublesome or who need special attention. But your efforts to reach out to those who are different or who need special care will be seen by all the children you teach. And it is by your example, even more than by your words, that you will teach.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center:
Story Statues

Collect
Bible, Preschool Music #1 CD and player.

Do
1. Briefly tell children the Bible story and
demonstrate a motion and/or sound for each
character (good Samaritan—wrap bandage around
arm; donkey—make donkey sound; hurt man—groan and hold head;
robber—crouch, waiting to pounce).

2. Play “Kind to Everyone” (track 7 on CD) as children walk around playing area. After 5 to 10 sec-
onds, stop the music. Call out one of the characters. Children make appropriate motion. Continue
game, naming other characters each time you stop the music.

Talk About

Our Bible story today is about a man who was
hurt by robbers. He waited for someone to come
by and help him. Several people walked by, but
then a man from Samaria stopped. He lifted the
hurt man onto his donkey and took care of him.
The good Samaritan showed God’s love to the
man who was hurt. Let’s play a game to remem-
ber who showed love in this story.

The Bible tells us, “Jesus said, ‘Love each oth-
er.’” We can show love by taking turns. What
are other ways you can show love to friends at
school?

Pray briefly, Dear God, please help us find ways to
help others.

For Younger Children
Children copy the teacher’s motion when the character is called.

For Older Children
Volunteers take turns calling out the name of one of the characters.
Play to Learn

Art Center:
Love Packs

Collect
Bible, small paper bags, markers or crayons, stickers, variety of gifts (wrapped candy, stickers, gift pencils, etc.), construction paper.

Prepare
Print “You are loved” in bold outlines on each bag.

Do
1. Give each child a paper bag. Children decorate bag using stickers and markers or crayons.
2. Children fill the bag with a variety of small gifts, including drawn pictures. Collect bags and arrange to give them to a charitable organization.

Talk About
- Our Bible story today tells about a man who was hurt very badly. He waited and waited until somebody stopped to help him. Let’s make gifts to give to people who are hurt or sick.
- When have you been sick? Who helped you? Do you know someone who is sick? You can help them know they are loved by giving them this gift bag.
- How do you help others? What can you do to help if someone falls down and is hurt? How can you help someone who is sad?
- The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other.’” When we help others, we are showing God’s love! Pray briefly, Dear God, help us find ways to help others.

For Younger Children
Children will find it easier to decorate the bag if it is closed flat.

For Older Children
Provide brightly-colored cards or index cards. Children write “Get well” or “I love you” on the cards and place them in the bag.
Lesson 23
God's Word

"Jesus said, 'Love each other.'"
(See John 15:17.)

God's Word and Me
I show God's love to people who need help.

Play to Learn

Block Center:
Blocks of Kindness

Collect
Bible, blocks, toy vehicles (particularly service vehicles such as ambulances, police cars, tow trucks, fire trucks, etc.), toy people.

Do
1. Children build roads and places where people get help (service station, hospital, etc.).
2. Children play with toy vehicles and people on roads.

Talk About

In our Bible story, a man was hurt while on a trip. A kind man helped the man who was hurt. Let’s build some roads and places where people help others.

Kobe, you were a kind friend when you gave Delaney the blocks she needed. You know how to show love.

Jesse, I think Julia needs a longer block for her building. How could you help her? Jesse, you are a kind friend to give her one of yours. That’s showing God’s love!

The Bible tells us, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other.’” Being kind and helping others are both ways to show love.

Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us show love to each other.

For Younger Children
Instead of building roads and places where people help others, children play freely with blocks. Use the conversation suggestions above to relate children’s activities to the lesson focus. Give smiles, hugs and pats on the shoulder to show your affection and interest. Your loving actions will demonstrate today’s biblical principle to “love each other.”

For Older Children
Instead of building roads and places where people can get help, children use blocks to build a road, boulders and an inn. Children use toy people to act out the story as you briefly retell the story events. Expect to retell the story several times during this activity.
Play to Learn

Science Center:
Fingerprint Fun

God’s Word
“Jesus said, ‘Love each other.’”
(See John 15:17.)

God’s Word and Me
I show God’s love to people who need help.

Collect
Bible, magnifying glass(es), white paper, soft lead pencils, transparent tape; optional—premoistened towelettes.

Do
1. Children use magnifying glass(es) to examine their fingertips. Then children scribble heavily on paper with pencil, rub fingertips on pencil scribble and then firmly press fingers onto the sticky side of a piece of tape. Lay the tape on the white paper. Children clean hands after making fingerprints. (Optional: If you do not have a sink nearby, distribute premoistened towelettes for children to use for clean up.)

2. Children use magnifying glass(es) to compare their fingerprints with other children’s fingerprints.

Talk About
In our Bible story a man helped someone in need. Often when we help, we use our hands! Let’s take a closer look at our hands.

How can you use your hands to help someone who has been hurt? (Help them stand up. Put a bandage on a hurt.) How can you use your hands to help people who are sad? (Pat them on the back. Give them a hug.)

At home, I use my hands to cook food to eat. What are some ways you use your hands to help at your house?

The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Love each other.’” We show God’s love when we help others. Pray briefly, Dear God, please help us show love to each other.

For Younger Children
Trace around children’s hands on sheets of paper. Children compare the size of their hands by placing hands on each other’s tracings.

For Older Children
Children make fingerprints in lines and curves to create letters or numbers.
God’s Word
“Jesus said, ‘Love each other.’”
(See John 15:17.)

God’s Word and Me
I show God’s love to people who need help.

Listen to Learn
Luke 10:25-37

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 36 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, beanbag.

Greet Each Other
Lead children in repeating this rhyme:

We’ll go round in a circle, round in a game;

When we come to you, please say your name.

Give a beanbag to one child who says his or her name. Repeat the rhyme as the child passes the beanbag to the child next to him or her. Next child says his or her name and then passes beanbag on until the beanbag has been passed all the way around the circle and every child has had an opportunity to say his or her name.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Luke 10. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 36 pictures.

I’ve seen many people being kind in our class today. Listen to a story Jesus told to find out which person showed love by being kind.

A man was on a long trip. Suddenly some men jumped out from behind rocks. They beat up the man. They took away all his money and his clothes. Then they ran away. Ohhh! The man was badly hurt. He couldn’t walk. He just lay by the side of the road.

Soon—step, step, step—someone was coming down the road! Oh, maybe it’s someone who will help me! the man thought. The traveler came closer. The traveler saw the hurt man. But he didn’t stop to help. The traveler stayed on the other side of the road and hurried on by! Ohhhhh! The hurt man felt so sick.

Then—step, step, step—someone else was coming down the road! Oh, surely this person will help me! the hurt man thought. The second traveler came closer. The traveler saw the hurt man by the side of the road. But he didn’t stop to help the hurt man. The traveler just looked at him and hurried on by! Ohhhhh! The hurt man felt worse.

Then—clippety-clop, clippety-clop—along came a traveler riding on a donkey. This man was a Samaritan. He was called a Samaritan because he came from a place called Samaria. Maybe this traveler will help me, the hurt man thought. When the Samaritan saw the hurt man, he STOPPED! He climbed off his donkey. He bandaged the man’s sore places. Then the traveler lifted the hurt man up on the donkey and took him to an inn (a place like a motel). He put the hurt man in a room and cared for him all night.

Then Jesus said to the people listening to His story, “We should show love to every person who needs help.”
Talk About the Story
Who helped the hurt man? (The Samaritan.) **We show God’s love when we help others.** When is a time someone might need help at the park? (When someone falls off the swings. When a ball rolls away.) **What is a way to help that person?** (Help that person stand up and get back on the swings. Roll the ball back to the person who is playing with it.)

Sing to God
**Let’s sing a song about being kind to each other.** Lead children in singing “Kind to Everyone” (track 7 on CD). **God can help us be kind to others. We show God’s love when we help others.**

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to John 15:17, say verse aloud. **Jesus wants us to love each other. That means we should love the people in our families, the people at our church, our friends . . . everyone!** Children perform the following motions as they say the words of the verse: Cross arms over chest for “love;” point around the room for “each other.” Repeat several times.

Pray to God
Volunteers say the following prayer: **Dear God, help me remember to love others. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Praise to God
Lead children in the following finger play:

- **My feet run** quickly to help,
- **My hands can lift** and hold,
- **My eyes see ways** I can help,
- **Because I love the Lord.**
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 36 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—sand, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue sand to the road.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 45 and 46 (p. 97 and p. 99 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 23 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, newspaper, glue.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.