

A Good Shepherd Parable

The Good Samaritan

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THE GOOD SAMARITAN MATERIALS

- parable box containing:
 - tan felt triangular underlay
 - brown felt road
 - 2 laminated city scenes
 - laminated figure of a man who is hurt
 - 2 laminated robber figures
 - laminated priest figure
 - laminated Levite figure
 - laminated Samaritan figure
 - laminated donkey figure



Man



Rob
bers



Levite



Priest



Samaritan

THE GOOD SAMARITAN LUKE 10:25-37

ACTIONS

After speaking, stand up and go to the shelf to get the story. Return to the circle with the parable box.

After speaking, as you sit in silence, trace the outline of the box slowly and reverently. Have at least 15 seconds of silence.

Rest your hands lightly on the box, touching it reverently.

Slowly shake your head and smile.

Nod your head confidently.

Raise your eyebrows and shake your head.

Lift the lid just slightly.

Lean forward, speaking quietly but intensely.

Sit up straight and make your face very serious. Pause and remove the tan underlay. Slowly smooth it out.

Place the brown road horizontally toward the bottom of the underlay. Place the city scenes on either end of the road.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get this story so you will know where to find it if you decide to make this your work today or another day.

All of the words to this story are inside of me. Will you please make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

This is a parable box. I wonder if there is really a parable inside this box?

You see parables are very precious,

This box looks a bit like a gift.

Parables are like gifts. We can't go buy one, or even rent one, like we do a movie. Parables already belong to us.

And like gifts, we don't always know what's inside by looking at the box.

We have to take the lid off. If we take the lid off our box, maybe we will discover a parable.

Once there was a man who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him. They would ask him questions.

One day a lawyer asked the man, "I know I should love my neighbor, but who is my neighbor?"

Then the man said, "Once there was a man who was going from Jerusalem to Jericho. "

Place the hurt man midway between the cities, a long side the road with the two robbers near him. Move the robbers quickly away and back into the parable box.

Move the priest from left to right down the road. Pause the priest and then intentionally move him to the opposite side of the road from the hurt man. Sharply turn your head as though looking away from the injured man. Move the priest down the road to the city on the right.

Move the Levite from left to right down the road. Pause the Levite and again, intentionally move the Levite across the road. Once more turn your head so you give the impression of not looking at the injured man. Move the Levite down the road to the city on the right.

Move the Samaritan and donkey from left to right down the road with your left hand.

Pause them at the hurt man. Sadly shake your head. Place your right hand over your heart and close it.

Gently rub your arm as though cleaning it and wrap an imaginary bandage around it.

Holding the Samaritan in your right hand and the hurt man and donkey in your left hand, move them along the road to the city scene on your right.

Layout two imaginary coins and raise your index finger as though giving instructions. Nod your head as you say "I will pay you the rest. "

On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took all of his possessions and beat him. Then they left him to die.

A priest from the church came down the road a little later. When he saw the man beaten and bloody he crossed over to walk on the other side of the road.

After him came a Levite, a man who knew the laws of the people of God. He walked over to the other side of the road, too. He did not stop to help the man.

Then down the road came a Samaritan. The people of God believed then that the Samaritans were not part of God's people.

But when the Samaritan saw the hurt man, he stopped. He felt very sad about the hurt man.

He cleaned and bandaged the man's wounds.

Then he put the man on his donkey while he walked. He took the man to an inn and took care of him.

The next day when he left, he gave the innkeeper money to take care of the man. "If this is not enough," he said, "I will pay you the rest when I come back this way."

Raise your eyebrows and open your palms toward the figures on the underlay.

Gently touch the figure of the Samaritan.

Nod your head slowly and smile.

The man who said amazing things and did wonderful things asked the lawyer, "Which of these men was the most like a neighbor?"

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

Then the man who said amazing things and did wonderful things said, "Go and do the same."

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder if the hurt man could see the two men cross away from him?

I wonder what the priest and the Levite felt inside when they walked away from the hurt man?

I wonder if the Samaritan's donkey wondered why his master was walking?

I wonder what the hurt man thought when he was healed and the Samaritan was gone?

I wonder if the hurt man ever knew the Samaritan's name? I wonder if he ever said "thank you" to him?

Put all the laminated materials in the box first and then put in the brown road.

Take the top point of the triangle and place it against the bottom straight side. Fold the top to the bottom. Then fold one side to meet the other side. Fold the point to the straight side. Place in the box and replace lid.

Watch carefully how I replace these materials so you will know how to use them if you make this your work today or another day.

This underlay needs to be folded so it will fit in our parable box. To fold this triangle we will put the point against this straight line. Now fold the top to the bottom. Then we can fold one side to meet the other side. Fold the point to the straight side. There, now it will fit.

After speaking, stand and walk slowly to the shelf, carrying the box with two hands, and replace it.

Go around the circle having each child choose their work. Dismiss the children ONLY when all have chosen their work.

Watch carefully where I return this parable so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

As you choose your work today, think about how this story makes you feel. What do you remember that you could paint or draw about? Today we also have~~ _____ to do. Let's begin so we can move to our work.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TEACHER HELPS

This parable really begins with the questions put to Jesus by a lawyer in the crowd. It is very probable that this particular lawyer was sent by Jesus' enemies to try to trick him. The Pharisees were to a point of looking for something that could be wrong with what Jesus was doing so they could arrest him. The fact that he was stirring up the people concerned the Jewish leaders. They understood that as long as the people of their land were willing to live by the laws of the Jewish faith, they, as leaders, would be in control. Jesus was challenging those laws much too regularly for them to be comfortable.

The text says that the lawyer stood up to "put him (Jesus) to the test". The question was "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Most likely this man was hoping Jesus would say, "Believe in me and you will have life eternal." That could have been called blasphemy and Jesus could have been arrested. But Jesus turned the tables on the lawyer by asking him what the scriptures said. The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus told the lawyer that he had answered correctly and he only need go and do what he's just said and he will live. The lawyer goes a step further and wants to "justify" himself (prove that he is righteous and acceptable to God) by defining who is his neighbor. At this point Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.

It's a very typical form for a story to have three pieces of action or a triadic response. After the man is beaten, first a priest, the highest order in the temple, then a Levite, second to the priest as a very knowledgeable layperson, come down the road. We are stunned by their apparent callousness as we read and hear this story today. It may be that Jesus was trying to make more than one point in this story. According to Jewish law, the priest was forbidden to touch a corpse. The priest may have assumed that the beaten man was dead and crossed the road to keep from defiling himself. The Levite only has this restriction in that he was on his way to perform cultic rites or activities. (The Parables of Jesus, Joachim Jeremias, New York: Scribner's Sons, 1972. p. 203) Was Jesus perhaps saying that people will always be more

important than the law? I believe that was his intent. While the story was intended to show the radical love of God, it was also a good lesson in helping the Jewish leaders do some self-examination of their laws.

A third and final observer was probably expected. Since Jesus had moved from priest to Levite, it was logical to assume that next would be a Jewish layperson with no cultic relationship to the temple. What was completely illogical was that the next person be a Samaritan. The Jewish people considered the Samaritans to be unclean. They would not touch them or sit at a table with them. While the Jewish people tended to believe that they disliked the Samaritans for religious reasons, it's probably more likely that it was for historical and racial reasons. The Samaritans were people from the northern 10 tribes of Israel who remained in that land when it was conquered in 722 B.C.E. They intermarried with other people who were imported into their land. The Samaritans worshiped God, as did the Jews, but the basis for their belief was in the books they believed to be written by Moses. That would be the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) but not the prophets, or psalms or wisdom literature. The true Jews considered themselves pure, whereas the Samaritans were not because they had intermarried.

Here the law of the priests and the law of love came crashing together. Who needed love? Who gave love? It would be expected that the people who were kept pure in their traditions and faith would be the first to respond. They would know the command to love of which the lawyer had spoken. But, it was a Samaritan who remembered the law, and acted on it. He acted quickly and generously. It is doubtful that he was carrying bandages with him. *So*, he either used his headdress or his robe to make bandages for the injured man. Then he took care of the man as long as he was able. When he needed to leave, he made sure there was someone else who could take over. It would have cost perhaps 1/12 of a denarius to spend a night in the inn. So the two denarii given to the innkeeper was a generous amount. If there was any more expense incurred, the Samaritan promised to pay it as well.

The emphasis of this lesson for the children is that all of the people of this world are capable of giving and receiving love. We want the children to begin to understand that it is not the church that a person attends, or doesn't attend, or the clothes that he/she wears or the friends a person plays with that tells us of their place in God's creation. Rather it is the actions of each person that will tell us if they are loving and kind. The children will probably begin to think of someone whom they would consider less than desirable if they are pushed to make the link. If time allows, that would make lovely discussion time with the older children.

The wondering questions are designed to try to help the children understand how the injured man, the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan felt. It's okay to hear about hurt and anger and even hating in response to this story. But try to end with the fact that someone did help, and how good those feelings must have been for both people involved.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

The men who walked past the hurt man could have stopped to help. Why do you think they didn't? Have you ever not helped someone when you know you should have? Why did you choose not to do so?

Normally, the man who was hurt wouldn't have wanted to be helped by the Samaritan because Samaritans were thought to be unclean. Are there people you have a hard time accepting or who you really don't want to help you? Who are they and why do you feel that way?

After the Samaritan helped the man who was hurt do you believe the hurt man changed his mind about the Samaritans? Why or why not? Have you ever had an experience with someone in your school or on your bus that made you change your mind about that person or people like that person? What was it and how were you changed?