

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10: 25-37



### **The story:**

Who's 7 years old here? Who's 10 years old? Who wants to be 15? Who wants to live for ever? Lots of us do! And that's just the question a clever man asked Jesus one day. "Teacher!" he said: "What do I have to do to live in heaven for ever?" Jesus didn't give him a straight answer, he asked him a question: "What does it say in the Word of God?" The man replied, (*fill in LOVE GOD*) "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and all your mind. And you must love your neighbour as yourself." "That's quite right!" said Jesus. "Do this and you will live for ever." But the clever man, a lawyer, was not quite clear about this, so he asked, "Who is my neighbour?"

So Jesus told him a story - a parable. Who knows what a parable is? It's an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Are you ready for the story? Once upon a time a Jewish man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. It's about 17 miles through the rocks and hills. How would he travel - by car? By plane? Train? Skateboard!... No, he would probably walk. How long would it take to walk 17 miles?" About 4-5 hours? The path would be full of stones and not much shade, and probably no places to stop for a drink - a lonely road - ideal bandit (terrorist) country.....He would set off early in the morning, just as the sun was rising (draw in the sun) The road is rough and the rocks are high on either side. Then suddenly out jump some men - WHACK! - they attack him and rob him and leave him on the side of the path - badly hurt, in fact half dead. He'd been mugged.

*(Draw him lying in the road – add some red for blood!).*

How would you feel lying by the side of a road all by yourself, badly hurt, bleeding, unable to move?

AFRAID? WORRIED? LONELY? HURTING? Did they have ambulances or policemen in those days who would come and help him? No. There was no hope for him unless somebody came by and took pity on him.

Listen! Can you hear footsteps coming along? He looks up out of the corner of his eye and sees that the man is a Jew - the same tribe as he is, and not only a Jew, but he is a priest - "WONDERFUL! A man of God, this man will help me," he thinks. The footsteps are coming nearer, and nearer, and then (*pause*) further away and further away - the priest has just gone on his way without giving him a second look. (*Draw figure on road in background*).

The sun is getting hotter and hotter. He is desperately thirsty. The flies are beginning to buzz around and settle on his wounds. The Jew just closes his eyes and and lies there - hoping against hope that someone will come along to help him. Listen! More footsteps! Another man coming along the road. He looks up: Wonderful! It is another Jew - a Levite who helps in the temple. "Great! This man will surely help me! This time he calls out: "HELP! HELP ME, PLEASE!"... the footsteps pause - the man crosses over to look at him - Oh, thank the Lord! But NO! the Levite turns his back, crosses the road, and goes on his way without giving him a second look. (*Draw figure on road in background*).

How do you think he feels? HOPELESS. DESPERATE.

He thinks he will die there by the side of the road. Perhaps he prays to God for help.

Another sound! AT LAST! God has answered his prayer. But when he looks up Oh, NO! his heart sinks again - it is a Samaritan - an enemy from a different tribe. He knows better than to expect help from this man. Samaritans and Jews never help each other - they hate one another. So the Jew just closes his eyes, ready to give up and die. He thinks maybe the Samaritan will finish him off and kill him. The footsteps come nearer, and nearer, and he braces himself as best he can to ward off the blow - the footsteps come right close up - a shadow across his face. What's this though? He isn't hit! Gentle, concerned eyes are staring down at him? A sip of water being offered? The Samaritan has knelt down beside him, and is carefully cleaning his wounds with wine and olive oil from his pack. these would disinfect them and soothe them. (*Draw in man and donkey*). The Samaritan was KIND.

He tied bandages round the injuries. He managed to get the injured Jew up on to the donkey. They went down the rocky path towards Jericho until they reached an inn. What's an inn? The Samaritan gave the Landlord two pieces of silver. I'm not sure how much that was worth, but for a couple of nights in a hotel here nowadays you would have to pay £80 to £100. He told the Landlord to take care of the man. He was A FRIEND. A real friend. He said "I've got to go on into town, but if you need any more money I will pay you on my way back."

"Who do you think was the good neighbour in this story?" Jesus asked the man of the law. Who do YOU think? Yes! That's what the clever lawyer said. "The one who helped him". "Yes," said Jesus "You go and do the same."

It's easy to help someone we like, isn't it? Or someone from the same family or school? But what about the people we don't like very much - are we ready to help them, and be friends with them? Maybe there are people you know at school or in your village, who feel LONELY or HURT or who need some HELP? Perhaps you can do something about it! (*Paint in LOVE EACH OTHER* )

The Bible says that the wrong things we think, and say, and do, make a barrier between us and God. God loves us so much, that he sent his only Son Jesus, so that anyone who believes in him should not die, but live for ever, just like the clever man asked Jesus. He died to take away the barrier, so that, if we say . sorry to God for the wrong things we do, and ask him to forgive us, he will make us new inside. But Jesus didn't stay dead, did he? What happened on the third day? Jesus came back to life, and now he is with God in Heaven. The Bible promises we can have a real friend IN JESUS

Alternative headline "TOUGH LOVE" and explain it isn't a sloshy sort of love like you see on TV, but a demanding and difficult thing to do, which needs God to help us.

Testimony.

Pray.