

Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

Please read our passage from Luke 10:25-37. When driving through our community I often notice, at various intersections, homeless individuals selling papers to earn money. Perhaps you have seen them as well. Each time I encounter such a situation I am faced with the same question the lawyer in our story presented to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

The lawyer's previous question to Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" was answered with a question, "What does the law say?" The lawyer answered, "Love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself." The lawyer knew the love for God was without limits, but could he not put limits on who was his neighbor? To a Jew, his only neighbor was another Jew. But Jesus wanted to enlarge those boundaries so he told a story.

A traveler was walking down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. This road was a notoriously dangerous trek. Not only did it drop off steeply as it winded down to the Dead Sea where Jericho was located but it was the home to bandits. It was not the wise traveler to take the journey alone, but nonetheless this seemed to be the case. The man was overtaken by robbers and left for dead. Two men passed by at separate times. Both were Jews and both held religious positions. Surely as they passed and saw the man, they wrestled between their religious laws and their humanitarian instincts. From their actions, they found resolve in their religion.

Then Jesus brings an enemy into the story, certainly an unlikely hero for a Jew. Jesus said a Samaritan came by and had compassion on the man. The man bound up his wounds and carried him to Jericho. To the listeners, there must have been shock and anger. There was no greater prejudice than that between a Jew and a Samaritan. When Jesus asked which one proved to be the neighbor, the lawyer could not even say the word, "Samaritan," he just said, "The one who showed mercy." The Samaritan's actions were proof of his love both for God and man. He did not consider his own safety, or the recklessness of the man traveling alone. He did not check the color of his skin or his credentials. He gave the man what he needed immediately and for the future.

Jesus' response of "Go and help others" was a sharp arrow into the heart of the religious royalties. Would their rabbinical laws blind them to God's love and the love they should have for others in need? Do we do the same? Do we hide behind excuses such as: helping might not be safe; it might have a cost; their recklessness got them into this life; or I am busy? God's love has no measure or limit. Who is my neighbor?

Lesson Plan

Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

Block Center

Build with Blocks Supplies:

• Wooden blocks

What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

Link to the Bible Story: As children build, listen for opportunities to share the Bible Phrase or tell a part of the Bible story.

Home Living Center

Role Play

Supplies:

- Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit and small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans, plastic food items; and doll items such as doll bed, baby doll, doll bag, blanket, clothes, bottles and diapers.
- Provide a toy doctor kit, bandages, cotton balls and craft sticks

What to Do: Home living items will encourage children to role play home activities such as cooking, cleaning and caring for the baby. The medical items will encourage children to role play a doctor's office.

Link to the Bible Story: As children play, look for opportunities to engage in conversation about the Bible story, Bible Phrase or Bible truth.

Center Time

Art Center

- Cotton Ball Painting Supplies:
- White construction paper
- Several colors of tempera paint, paper plates or paper bowls
- Cotton balls (4 or 5 per child)

What to Do: Print today's Bible Phrase on each sheet of paper. Pour paint into bowls or plates. Invite children to dip a cotton ball into paint and dab it on their paper. Using different colors over their paper creates a unique design. Provide a bowl or plate to place used cotton balls.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, express that in our Bible story today Jesus tells a story about a man who was hurt and left on the side of the road. Comment that two people passed the man before a third man stopped to help him. Read the Bible Phrase and explain to children that God wants us to help those in need.

Bible Learning Center

Follow a Maze

- Supplies:
- Copies of Activity Page "A Kind Man" (Reproducible)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Colored Sticky Dots

What to Do: Invite children to use the sticky dots to place in the circles as they follow the maze. Encourage children to color the pictures.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, use the pictures to tell the Bible story.

Puzzle Center Work Puzzles Supplies:

• Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do: Encourage children to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Give guidance rather than doing the puzzle for the child.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible Phrase or briefly tell the Bible story.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.

Bible Story Time

Supplies: • Bible • Teaching Picture "The Story of a Kind Man" (Reproducible) • God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Point to each symbol and tell God's Unfolding Story. (Refer to page 1.) Encourage children to say the story with you.
- Comment to boys and girls today's story is from the segment **God sent Jesus to help us.** (Point to that symbol on the cube.)
- Express the following in your own words: "God sent Jesus to help us understand more about Him. Jesus told a story to help the people understand that just as God loves us we are to love others and help them when



they are in need. Listen to this story of a man who showed love to someone who was hurt."

Bible Story The Story of a Kind Man Luke 10:25-37

One day Jesus was teaching about loving God and loving others. A man in the crowd asked, "To whom should we show our love?" Jesus told a story to help them understand.

A man was traveling along a long winding road to a town called Jericho. Suddenly, some men came behind him and beat him badly. They took all of his money and clothes and left him on the side of the road. The man laid on the road hurt and probably very afraid.

Then the man heard footsteps. "Someone was coming, maybe they would help him," the man thought. But instead of helping they crossed over to the other side of the road and hurried on by.

A little later, the man heard more footsteps. "Maybe this person will help me," thought the man. But again the person crossed over to the other side of the road and did not bother to help the hurt man.

Then the man heard the clip, clop of a donkey. The sound got closer and closer and suddenly, the donkey stopped right beside the man. A kind man got off the donkey and looked carefully at the man. The kind man could tell that the man had been hurt very badly. So he got some bandages from his bag and wrapped up the hurt man's sore places. The kind man knew the hurt man would need more care so he put him on his donkey and carried him to Jericho. He took the man to an inn which is like a hotel and cared for him that night. The next day when the man left he gave the innkeeper some money to help take care of the man.

When Jesus finished his story, he asked the people a question. "Which man showed love to the hurt man?" The man in the crowd said, "The one who helped the hurt man." Jesus said, "Go and help others." Jesus wanted the people to know that we should show love to anyone who needs our help.

Talk Time

- **1.** Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story. Ask the following: "What happened to the man walking along the road? What did the first two men do when they saw the hurt man? What did the third man do for the hurt man? Which person showed love to the man?"
- 2. Say today's Bible Phrase together, "Jesus said, 'Go and help others.'" Luke 10:27. Talk about ways we can show our love to those in need such as: sending a card or flowers to a sick friend; give food and clothes to those who are in need; provide toys to children who don't have many toys; help someone who has fallen or gotten hurt on the playground; being a friend to a new person in your class or neighborhood; etc.
- **3.** Close the Bible Story Time in prayer asking God's help to show love to those in need.

Craft Time

Make a Bible Story Book

Supplies:

- Copy of "Bible Story Book" (Reproducible)
- Crayons or washable markers

What to Do: Cut out each "Bible Story Book." Distribute books. Point to pages 2 and 3 of the book. Ask boys and girls to complete the pictures on these pages by drawing stick figures of the men who passed by the hurt man.

Link to Bible Story: As children work, read the Bible Phrase. Invite children to use the pictures to review the Bible story with a family member or friend. Talk about ways we can help those in need.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time/Dismissal

I Can Be Kind

Supplies:

• Small beanbag

What to Do: Ask children to come to the Game Time area and form a circle. Choose a child to stand in the center and hold the beanbag. Say this rhyme: "(Child's name) is standing in the ring, (Child's name) can do a kind thing. What could (Child's name) do?" Help the child name something he could do to help someone. Then the child in the circle tosses the beanbag to another child who comes to the center of the circle. The rhyme is said for this child. Continue until all the children have been in the center of the circle. At the close of the game, remind boys and girls of today's Bible Phrase, "Jesus said, 'Go and help others'" Luke 10:37.

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of your church



Resources and Supplies

New Testament Unit 8: Jesus Taught About God **Lesson 4:** The Story of the Kind Man

Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room) Washable markers Crayons Child scissors Playdough and accessories Drawing paper Easel (optional) Glue/glue sticks Tempera paint, 4 colors Tape/masking tape Pencils/colored pencils Hole punch Teacher scissors Stapler/staples Permanent markers Watercolors Paintbrushes Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room) Small beanbag for Bible Story Time Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles Set of wooden blocks Small cars and trucks Doll bed Baby doll (soft plastic) Stove/sink unit Play dishes/pots and pans Small table and chairs Small carpet for block area Play food items Storage shelf for blocks Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center CD player/Children's Worship CDs

Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads) Activity Page "The Kind Man" (1 copy per child) "Bible Story Book" (1 copy per child) Teaching Picture "The Story of the Kind Man" (1 copy per class) God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock—1 copy per class) Parent Page (1 copy per child)

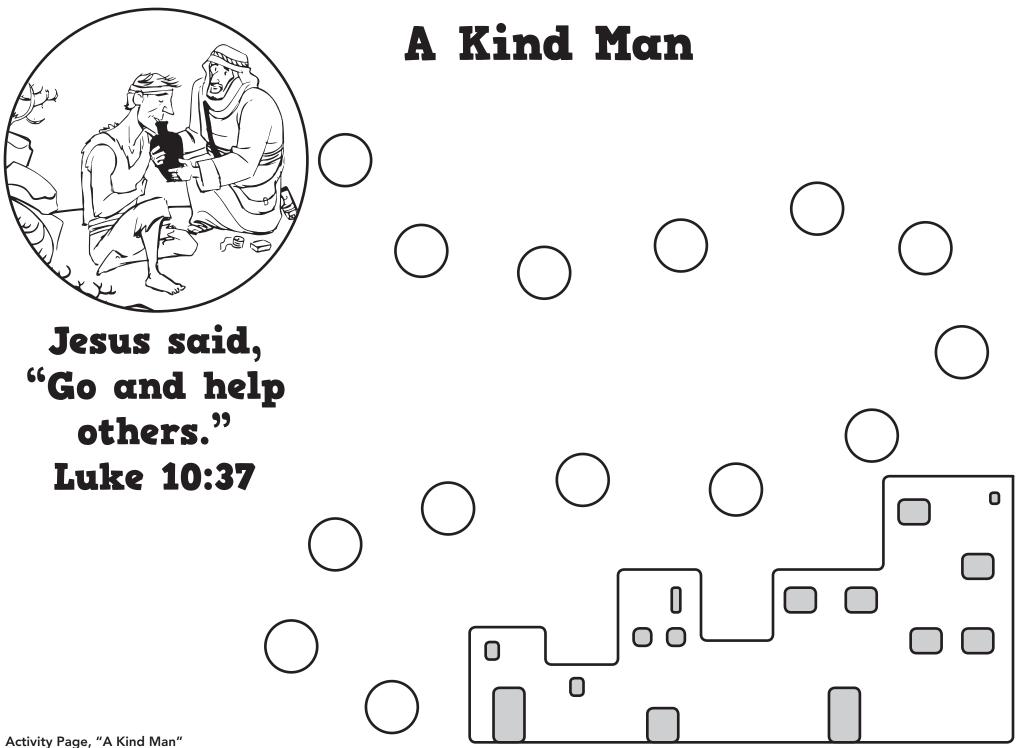
Additional Art and Bible Learning Materials

White construction paper (1 sheet per child) Cotton balls (4 or 5 per child) Colored Sticky Dots (office supply, discount or grocery store) (8 to 10 per child)

Additional Home Living Materials

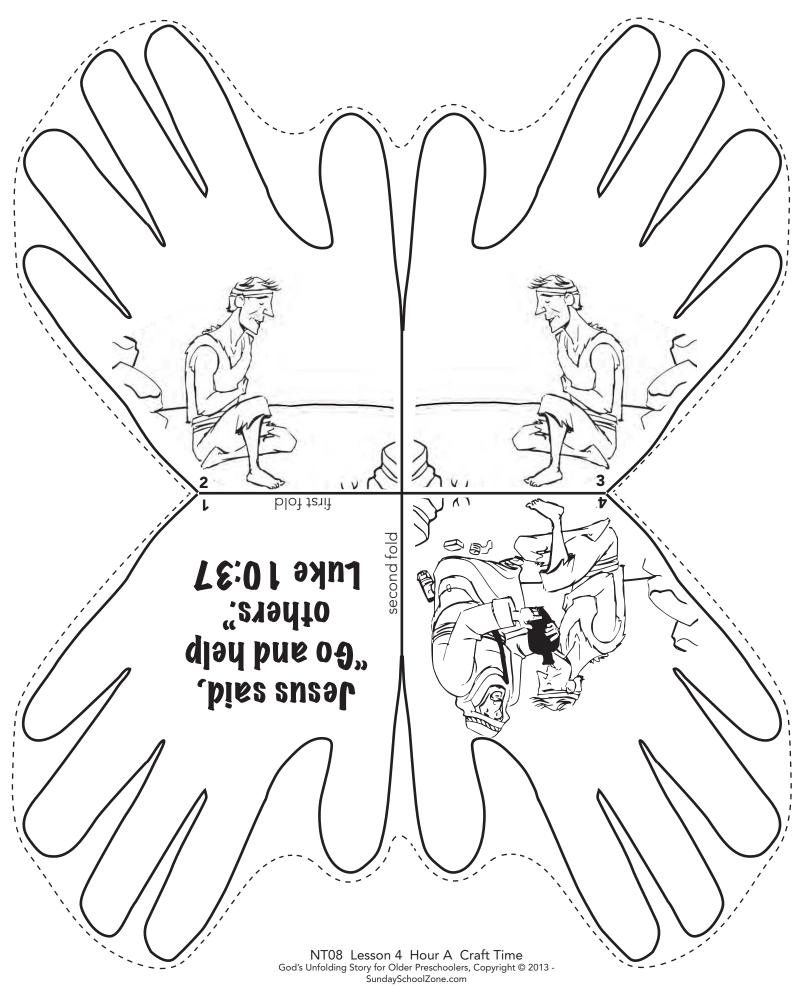
Play doctor kit Cotton balls, bandages, craft sticks





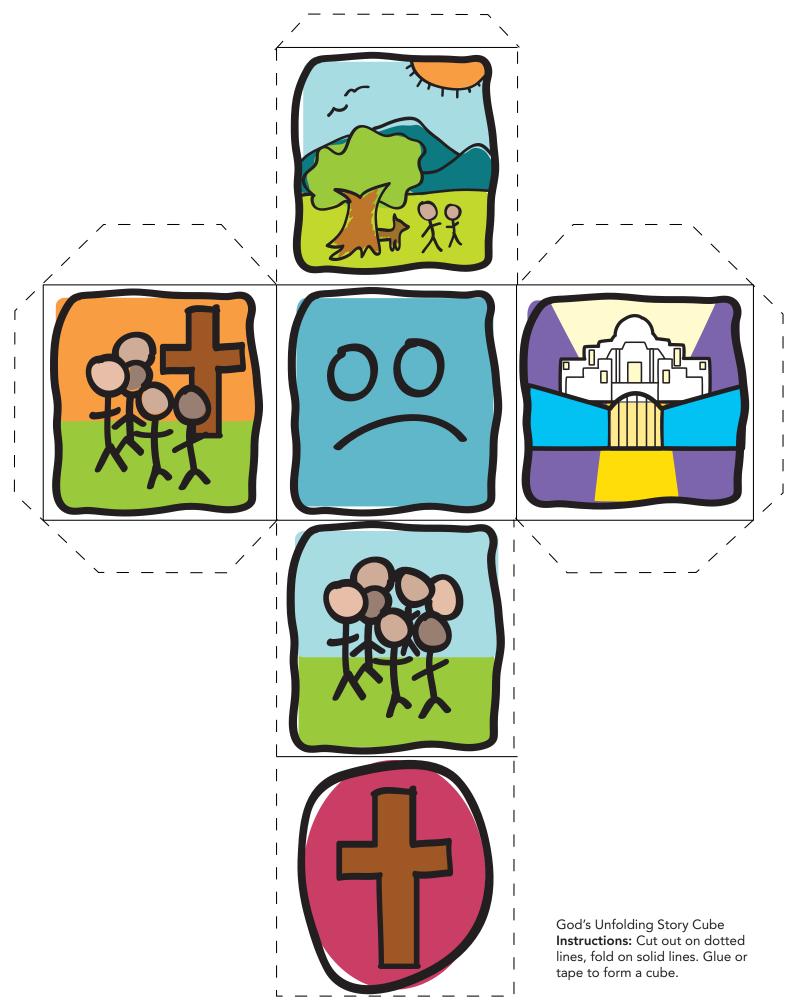
Instructions: Copy one sheet per child. Invite children to use sticky dots to place in the circles to follow the maze. Color the pictures.

NT08 Lesson 4 Hour A Center Time: Bible Learning Center God's Unfolding Story for Older Preschoolers, Copyright © 2013 - SundaySchoolZone.com



Craft, "Bible Story Book"

Instructions: : One copy per child. Invite children to complete the pictures on pages 2 and 3 by drawing stick figures of the men who passed by the hurt man. Encourage children to color all the pages of the book. Assist in folding.





"Jesus said, 'Go and help others." (Luke 10:37)

"The Story of the Kind Man" Coloring Page