
“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:14b (NIV)

Though Jericho is about 23 miles northeast of Jerusalem and five miles west of the Jordan River, Jesus said the man went “down” from Jerusalem to Jericho due to the fact that Jerusalem is on a mountain and Jericho is down in a valley. This mountainous road, which was desolate and rocky, made a good place for robbers to hide. The road was at one time called the Red or Bloody Way, which is illustrated in verse 30 in the actions of the thieves.

Though the setting was daunting, several passersby could have assisted the beaten man. Instead, their selfish actions reject the loving example of which Christ is speaking. Many of the priests lived in Jericho, and, when their turn came to minister in the temple, they had to walk “up” to Jerusalem. This priest must have just finished his service in the temple and was returning home to Jericho because he was going “down.” After having just served in a sacred place, wouldn’t you think he would have been the first to help the “half dead” man? Instead, he crossed to the other side of the road to avoid the man. The Levite, a helper to the priest, showed a hint more compassion, for he looked at the man before passing by. The actions of these men illustrate that our worst sins can be not to do what we ought to do.

The Samaritan was the one person the Jewish lawyer did not consider his neighbor. In this story, Jesus told the lawyer it was the Samaritan who had love and mercy for the wounded man by doing everything he could to help the man. This example of true love shows what it means to love our neighbors. This parable shows love is to put ourselves in the other person’s place and treat them exactly how we would want to be treated. Neighborly love will be living the Golden Rule daily in every situation.
Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

**Know:** God expects you to love Him and love others.

**Feel:** A need to help others.

**Do:** Show love and help to others.

Leader’s Devotion

I love the fact that Jesus used stories, or parables, that people can relate to. The farmers and fishermen have many illustrative stories. Finally a medical/triage/first-aid parable! Okay, the nurse in me is peering through. How perfect though, that the only place this parable is recorded is in the book of Luke. Doctor Luke, that is. Luke wasn’t going to forget this parable any time soon. What a great message, with a little taste of “medicine” to spice it up.

Jesus was intelligent and witty. He asked a lawyer, or expert in the law, what the law says. The whole time Jesus has him answering his own questions. Jesus is dominating the conversation. Today’s lawyers make every effort to be the ones asking all the questions. It’s hard to imagine a lawyer enjoying that side of the discussion. Some lawyers today still deal with this story. Jesus’ parable inspired a law called The Good Samaritan Act. This law protects nurses and physicians who provide care in good faith to someone in an emergency, without pay. In other words, if a medical provider is just trying to help a person in need, this will help protect them from a lawsuit. No need to be afraid of being a Good Samaritan!
Materials: Tape measure, tall person

Procedure: Measure children one at a time. Tell them, it’s important they remember their “number” – that is, their number of inches. Now, who was the biggest in the class? Wait for responses. Help them decide who is the tallest in the class. Then have your tall person (this could be you) say, “Hey, what about me? I didn’t get measured yet.” Have the children help measure, and look at the number. How many inches does that say? Wow! That’s a lot bigger than you guys. Okay, now … who is the biggest Christian in here? They should say whoever is your tallest person. Think about the whole church. Who’s the biggest Christian you can think of? Wait for responses.

Is this really how we measure Christians? No, it’s actually a silly question because you can’t really measure how big a Christian someone is. You can measure how tall they are, but not the size of their heart for Jesus. How about love, can we measure that with a tape measure? Shake your head no. We can see who is a Christian by his or her love. We can tell if someone goes out of their way to help another person, they love the way Jesus wants them to love.

We can always grow as a Christian. Just like we grow inches as children, we need to grow in our minds and hearts as Christians. Name some ways we can grow as Christians? Prayer, reading the Bible, going to church, worship, and helping others in need. Help others like you would want others to help you. Show the world that you are striving to be the biggest Christian ever!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Get Set!

Option B

Materials: Band-Aids, marker, You!

Preparation: Unwrap Band-Aids, write “problems” on underside (white side) of Band-Aids. Prior to class you will strategically place Band-Aids all over yourself. Go overboard, make it obvious; this should not look normal. Ideas for what you can write on your Band-Aids:

- Nosey – place across your nose
- Listen – place near ear
- Gossip - place near mouth
- Bow – place on forehead
- Don’t – place near eye
- Kneel – place on knee
- Pray – place on hand
- Church place on shoe or foot

Procedure:
Oh class...look at me, I’m a mess! I know Band-Aids help to heal things, so I thought I’d try them out. I tried to put all my problems or needs under the Band-Aids. See, I’ll show you. Begin taking one Band-Aid off at a time and explain its meaning. Pull the one off your nose and say, I wrote “nosey” on this one, because sometimes I have trouble staying out of other people’s business. Pull off the “listen” Band-Aid and say, sometimes I have trouble listening to other people. It isn’t right for me to talk all the time and not listen to others. Pull off “gossip”. Oh dear, this one I really need help with, I must never talk bad, behind someone’s back, to others. That’s terrible. My mouth should only speak to build others up or to help them. Take off “bow”, “pray”, and “kneel” at the same time. These go together. I need to remember to take a special time out each day to fold my hands and bow to God in prayer. Kneeling down is important to me also. We know that Jesus knelt down and prayed to His Father. (Luke 22:41) Pull off “don’t”. This one says, “don’t”. It is to remind me not to look at things I shouldn’t. Sometimes I want to see a movie that I’ve heard is good, but it has bad language in it. I need to say, “don’t” watch it! Take off “church” Band-Aid. This reminds my feet they need to take me to church.

I also Band-Aids for real wounds, but these are wounds that can happen to me too. I don’t want to have a wounded spirit. I want to have a spirit-filled life with Jesus as my healer and savior.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Think of a time when you were hurt or really sick. How did you feel? I imagine you felt terrible. Who did you want to take care of you? Wait for a response. Now let’s imagine you just wrecked your bike… and it was a bad crash. You are bleeding and wondering if you broke any bones. Let’s pretend none of the people that normally take care of you are close by. Mom and Dad are both gone. Grandma and Grandpa are on vacation. You are all alone, lying in the middle of the road, bleeding. Now if you had a choice of who will walk down the street you are lying on, whom would you pick? None of these people know you. Here are your three choices: a preacher, an elder from church, or a guy who believes there is a God but doesn’t even go to church. Who sounds like the person most likely to help you? Wait for responses.

A smart man once asked Jesus, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” This man knew the laws well, so Jesus asked him what the law said about this. The smart man answered, “Love the Lord your God … and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus told him he was right. Jesus said if he followed those laws, he would be in the Kingdom. Then the smart guy said, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus then told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus said that a Jewish man was taking a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho. While he was traveling, men jumped onto the road and beat him up. They stripped him, robbed him, and left him on the road half dead. He was all alone and needed some serious help. Finally a priest was coming down the road. Surely he would help. He was a preacher at the same type of Jewish temple the injured man went to. The priest saw the man and walked to the other side of the road. He walked right by and didn’t help. A little while later, a Levite came down the road. A Levite was a man who worked in the temple, or church. This guy walked to the other side of the road too, and didn’t help. Next a Samaritan was coming down the road. Samaritans and Jews did not get along. They had different beliefs and tried to stay away from each other. When the Samaritan saw the injured man, he felt bad for him. He poured oil on his wounds to help them heal, and bandaged them. He put the injured man on his own donkey and led him to a hotel, or inn. He took care of him. The next morning the Samaritan had to leave for a while. He paid the innkeeper two silver coins. He asked the innkeeper to look after him. He said he would pay him for any extra expenses.

After telling this story, Jesus asked the smart man, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The man said, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him to “Go and do likewise.” We need to be a good neighbor. It doesn’t matter if we know the person in need, or not. Jesus taught us who our neighbors are. They are not just the people in the next house. He also taught us what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. Let’s follow his example.
HEALTH

Materials: Zipper sandwich bags, assorted band-Aids, wet wipes, cotton balls, gauze, medical tape, and labels for sandwich bag (self adhesive name tags are good for this).

Preparation: You can prepare labels before class, or let them decorate their own. Gather first aid items. Just having Band-Aids would be sufficient.

Procedure: Give each student a label to decorate, and make sure they put their name on it. Pass out your medical supplies. If you have different sized Band-Aids you could ask them where they think each Band-Aid would fit best. Ask if a large Band-Aid would fit best on a little finger or an arm. Discuss different times Band-Aids might be needed.

When would be a good time to carry your first aid kit? Maybe sporting activities, trips to the park, or when you are traveling. When you have your special kit with you, you will have many opportunities to act as a “Good Samaritan”. The baggie your supplies are in is very important. If someone gets hurt, or has a headache... you can put ice in your baggie. The ice can be used, if Mom and Dad say it’s okay, on all kinds of boo boos.

We can help cover people’s hurts with our Band-Aids. Jesus is willing to cover all our hurts. Take your problems and pain to Jesus in prayer. He will help you through. We know He suffered terribly on the cross. He can understand our hurts.
OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Band-Aids, red markers

Preparation: Remove Band-Aids from their wrappers. Draw red hearts on Band-Aids.

Procedure: Give one Band-Aid to each child. If you have an even number of children, pair them up. If you have an odd number of children, have them take their Band-Aid to the person on their right.

Hold the Band-Aid in your hand. You will be giving the Band-Aid to the person I designated for you. You are to ask the person receiving your Band-Aid, “What problem or hurt can you think of that needs a bandage?” This can be a problem with you, a friend, or your family. For instance, you may want prayer for a stubbed toe, or Mom’s headache, or your brother’s grades in school. Once you know what your buddy needs prayer for, put the Band-Aid on his or her hand and pray a silent prayer for that problem.

People may need prayer, or help, for problems other than physical hurts. Now that you’ve bandaged your buddies with a Band-Aid, you can offer a prayer for God to bandage all their hurts. Pray for your buddy tonight.
ART

Materials: Long white tube socks, scissors, rolls of masking tape or medical tape, markers, olive oil, cotton ball

Preparation: Make two cuts at the end of each sock. Cut one little thumbhole on the side. Leave an inch space, and cut the rest of the toe area out of the sock.

Procedure: Take olive oil (or whatever oil you have) and dab it onto a cotton ball. Tell each student to put out his or her non-dominant arm. Have them stick out the hand they don’t color or draw with. Walk around to each student and put a little dab of oil on their arm. During the days of Jesus, oil like this was very important to people. The Bible tells us in the parable of the Good Samaritan; oil was used like medicine to help with a man’s injuries. The Samaritan poured oil on the injured man’s wounds, and bandaged them. In Mark 6:13, Jesus’ disciples also healed people with oil. Now that we’ve had our healing oil, let’s make a cast! Give each student a sock. Put tape at a central location for children. Have any of you ever had a real cast? Thank goodness no pain is involved with getting this cast. Anyone wearing long sleeves needs to push their sleeves up now. Pull your sock up over your hand and arm. We need teamwork now. Just as the Samaritan bandaged the injured man’s wounds, we need to help each other with tape. Most of the sock should end up covered with tape. We want this to look like a real plaster cast. Assist wherever needed. Now that everyone has their cast, let’s write our names on each other’s casts. Pass out markers. If long sleeves are under casts, markers may bleed through. I’ve seen many people have their friends sign their casts, like we are doing. Now you will always remember your friends when you look at your cast.

Close

We must try to be like the Good Samaritan and help whenever needed. We may use medicine and bandages today, but we know there is no better “healer” than Jesus. Jesus is better than all the oil and bandages in the world.
ART/SCIENCE

Materials: empty toilet paper rolls and markers. If toilet paper rolls are not available, use card-stock and tape.

Procedure: Each child should receive an empty toilet paper roll. Provide markers. Can anyone in here tell me what a stethoscope is? They are the listening devices you see hanging around doctor’s and nurse’s necks. Have any of you ever listened through a stethoscope? Our story today is about an injured man who probably needed a doctor to see him. He had been beaten and left half-dead on the side of the road. If a person was left “half-dead”, I guarantee one of the first things a doctor would want to do, is listen to his heart. We’re going to make our own stethoscopes today. These work very well. You’ll be able to hear a friend’s or a family member’s heartbeat.

Use markers to decorate your stethoscope. You could encourage them to make hearts on their stethoscopes if they can’t come up with other ideas. Once you’ve finished decorating, ask a friend if you can try it out on them. Place your stethoscope tight against their chest. Place your ear tight against your stethoscope. If you have trouble hearing right away, ask your friend to do five jumping jacks. This will make their heart beat faster and louder for you.

Can you hear Jesus in there? He should be in all of our hearts. The story of the Good Samaritan is found only in the book of Luke. I think Luke took special interest in this story; before his days as a disciple, he was a doctor!
Unit 5—The Good Samaritan

Go!

Urgent Care Relay

GAME

Materials: Rolls of cheap toilet paper, prizes if desired. Keep empty toilet paper rolls to use on Dr. Luke’s Silly Stethoscope.

Quest Connection

Procedure: Form teams. You can either pair children up, or form two teams. Choose one to be the “injured” person in each pair, or choose three to be “injured” on each team. The other people are the “Good Samaritans”.

This will be a race. The injured people need to be cared for - fast! Each injured person needs to have their bandages (toilet paper) tied around each leg and each arm. The injured person is too wounded to help you. Whoever gets their “injured person” or “injured people” bandaged up the quickest wins! Prizes could be Good & Plenty candy or Mr.Goodbar candy bars to keep the “good” theme going.

Close

We should always be looking to see who is in need. Some may have hurts on their skin that need bandaged. Others may have hurt feelings that need mended. Act like the Good Samaritan, and by doing so you’ll be a good Christian.
Choose The Right Trail Mix

FOOD   Check for food allergies!

Materials: Zipper lock sandwich bags, permanent marker, five or six large bowls, paper cups (one needed per bowl), and ingredients for Trail Mix.
Ingredient ideas: Chex cereal, cheerios, mini pretzels, chocolate chips, raisins, peanuts, sunflower seeds, M&M’s, dried fruit, fish crackers

Quest Connection

Preparation: Keep ingredients separate and put them each in a large bowl. Place one cup in each bowl to be used as a scoop.

Procedure: Give each child a sandwich bag and write their name on it. We’re going to be making our own Trail Mix today. People usually make up a trail mix for when they’ll be traveling. If they get hungry on the trail, they can have their snack. In our story today, we find out that a man was traveling down a trail between Jerusalem and Jericho. This dangerous road was known as “The Way of Blood” because hiding robbers had hurt so many people there. It ran through rocky, desert country and was 17 miles long. Let’s pretend we’re getting ready for a trip. We’re going to choose our own ingredients to make our trail mix. Take your sandwich bag and head over to the goodie bowls. Use the cups to scoop food into your bag. Take whatever you like. Please share and make sure there is enough of each food for everyone. When you’re done filling your bags, zip the top closed and shake them up. Help keep zip bags closed. You’re Trail Mix is officially done now.

If time permits, take them around the room or outside on a trip. Talk about how important it is to plan your trips.

Close

There will be many roads or “trails” to go down during your life. We need to plan well for these trips. You could have a choice to take a “trail” to church on Sunday morning or take a “trail” out to your sandbox to play. Which trail is the better choice? Church. The man in our story probably needed to make the trip to Jericho, but maybe he could have taken a friend with him. We don’t know if that choice would have saved him from the robbers, but we do know robbers were sneaking around on that road, waiting to attack people. Plan ahead and choose the right trail.
You are the Good Samaritan

Draw a picture of a bed under the injured man. Stick 2 small band-aids on him. Draw yourself above him. You are taking care of him at the inn.
Fill in the dot to dots. Circle where the donkey took the injured man.
Work your way through the maze. The Good Samaritan paid 2 coins at the inn to help the injured man. Start at the top. When you get to the coins, color them.
Circle the good neighbors
Draw a picture of yourself here.