

Lesson 5 The Good Samaritan - Godly Play. Luke 10:25 - 37.

You will need: A large rectangle of green felt. A strip of cream/ brown felt as the road. Two black felt shapes to place each side of the road where the man is attacked, Wooden blocks to indicate Jericho and Jerusalem. Figures of 6 people; Injured man, Samaritan, Priest, Levite, 2 thieves . All kept in a gold box with a lid (all parables are told from a gold box, so just make one and transfer each parable into it as needed if you wish).

The Script (*actions are shown in italics*):

This box has a parable inside (*at first clutch the box, then place in centre of the circle*).

The box is gold, and gold is very precious. Parables are even more precious than gold to Christians.

The box has a lid (*tap it*), sometimes parables are hard to get inside.

The box looks like a present, Christians believe that parables are presents given to us long ago. You don't have to earn them or buy them, they already belong to everyone.

Let's look inside! (*pull the box from the centre to rest beside you and open the lid to form a screen between the contents and the children*)

I wonder what this could be? (*take out the green felt and play with it listening to ideas from the children*)

Oh, here's something else, what could this be? (*take out the "road" and do the same as with the green felt*)

I wonder if there's anything else in the box which can help to tell this parable. These might help. (*take out the two black pieces of felt and then the two cities and place them in the correct places; Jericho at the furthest end of the road and Jerusalem at the other, the black felt pieces on either side of the road approximately half way between the two cities*)

At this point, once the wondering about the felt and wood is finished, you face the story and must remain engaged in it, without giving any more eye contact to the children, until the storytelling is complete.

(Take out the two robbers and hide one behind each black piece of felt. It doesn't matter that the children see this happen)

There was a man who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. Sometimes the people asked him questions. One day a person asked him what the most important thing in life is.

Jesus said "You already know"

The person said "It is true, I do. That we love God, and our neighbour as much as we love ourselves."

"Good answer", Jesus said. "Do it!"

"But" The man replied "Who is my neighbour?"

So Jesus told this story.

There was once someone who was going on a journey. *(Take out the traveller and begin to walk him along the road from Jerusalem towards Jericho)* As he went on his way he was attacked by robbers. They hit him and hurt him really badly and took everything he had. He was so badly hurt he could not move. The sun was hot. He was in a lot of pain. *(place the robbers one after the other in an X shape on top of the traveller, then move them off of the felt and back into the box beside you. When you say "he was in a lot of pain" turn the traveller over and place him on one side of the road next to a black felt shape)*

Just then a priest came down the road *(start to walk the priest along the middle of the road from Jerusalem towards Jericho. Don't rush this!)* He had been praying in the temple. As he came to the place where the person had been attacked he saw the hurt man lying there, in pain, in the hot sun *(move the priest slowly to the far side of the road and past the traveller)*. The priest did not help the man, instead he went to the other side of the road and continued on his way. *(once the priest passes the traveller place him back in the middle of the road and move him all the way to Jericho. Move him off the underlay and back into the box beside you)*

Another man came by. He had been working in the temple, he took care of the temple, he helped the priests. He was called a Levite *(start to walk the Levite along the middle of the road from Jerusalem towards Jericho, again, don't rush!)*. When he saw the man who had been hurt lying there, in pain, in the hot sun *(move the Levite to the far side of the road and past the traveller)* he went to the other side of the road and continued on his way. *(once the Levite passes the traveller place him back in the middle of the road and move him all the way to Jericho. Move him off the underlay and back into the box beside you)*

There was someone else on the road *(start to walk the Samaritan along the middle of the road from Jerusalem towards Jericho, again, don't rush!)*. He was from a place called Samaria. A man from another place, with a different religion - someone who people in Jerusalem thought was an enemy. He too saw the man lying there, in the hot sun, badly hurt, all alone on the road. The stranger went to help *(move the Samaritan towards the traveller)*. He put bandages on the man's wounds, he gave him a drink, and put him on his donkey and took him to a safe place to spend the night *(move the Samaritan and the traveller together almost all the way to Jericho)*. The stranger gave the innkeeper enough money to look after the man until he was well again. Then the stranger left and went on his way *(move the Samaritan on to Jericho and then off the underlay, leave the traveller where he is)*.

"Now", Jesus asked. "Who was the neighbour to the man who was robbed?"

The Samaritan, the man answered. "Good", Jesus replied. "Be like him."

(Now you need to get all of the figures out of the box. Place them all to your left on the underlay. You are going to put different figures next to the traveller as you do the verbal wondering).

Now it's time to look up from the story and engage in the verbal wondering. Be patient, sometimes it takes the children a while to feel happy to speak. Sometimes the quietest children are doing the deepest wondering!

Now I wonder, who is the neighbour to the person who was badly hurt, in pain, lying in the hot sun?

(One by one, place each figure beside the traveller. It is important to wait between each question and each change of figure. Usually there will be no disagreement of an answer to this wondering question!) I wonder if it could be the priest? Could it be him? I wonder if it could be the Levite? I wonder if the stranger was the traveller's neighbour?

(Now it's time to play with the idea of who could be neighbours to the other people in the story, this can produce some powerful feelings and deep wondering. As you talk about different people move them towards the centre of the underlay and then back to your left as you conclude the wondering. Use questions like these):

I wonder who is the neighbour of the priest? That's not so easy is it? Could it be this one?

I wonder who is the robber's neighbour? Is it the other robber? Could it be the priest?

...and so on.

I wonder if Jesus was telling the story today, who might the Samaritan really be?

I wonder who your neighbour is?

Once the verbal wondering is over, begin to return all the objects carefully into the box. Don't hurry, naming each piece as you return it.

I wonder what work you would like to do now to continue your wondering?

Don't feel obliged to ask all the wondering questions and feel free to be led to make more, depending upon where the wondering goes. Each time you deliver the story new questions and answers will emerge. Ensure you try not to close down the wondering with a prescriptive answer.

Try to allow as much choice as possible during the individual response time. If possible this work should be evidenced with photographs or small group discussion. The children's work during the individual response time is personal and should not be shared unless the child requests it. Children will gain the most from individual response time if they are fully relaxed and the pace is slow.