#### Lesson 1:

#### The Good Samaritan

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31

MEMORY WORK:

John 3:16

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

A neighbor can be anyone even if they don’t live nearby. We should be aware of those in need and do what we can to help them.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Who is the best teacher? We can learn so much from studying about Jesus. Today we are going to learn about a story Jesus told that taught an important lesson about being kind to others and looking for people who need help.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. One day when Jesus was teaching a crowd of people, a **lawyer** stood up and asked Jesus a question to test Him. The lawyer asked what he needed to do to inherit eternal life (i.e., to live forever with God). Jesus reminded the young man that he should love God with all his heart and love his neighbor as himself.

**Lawyer:** In New Testament times, a lawyer (often called a “scribe”) was a man who studied the Law of Moses and was considered a reliable source for interpretations of the Law and opinions about it. Lawyers were very influential, as teachers of the Law and members of the special Jewish council, called the Sanhedrin, which made decisions about religious matters and civil disputes.

For younger children, define **lawyer** as a man who studied the Law of Moses and who was thought to be really smart and know a lot about the Law.

1. Then the lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Instead of answering the question directly, Jesus told a parable (a special story) about a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho (18-20 miles). Robbers attacked the man, robbed him, beat him, and left him for dead. [*Those listening to Jesus’ story would have been familiar with the dangers of traveling the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was notorious for being home to robbers. Remind the children that people walked everywhere or rode camels or donkeys.*]
2. A priest (priests were considered to be very religious and sincere people, although many were not) was walking down the road and saw the hurt man, but he didn’t stop to help. A Levite (a Jew, from the tribe of Levi, who helped in the Temple, also thought by most people to be very religious) also walked by and saw the hurt man, but he didn’t stop to help either. A third man walked by and immediately stopped to help. He put **oil, wine,** and bandages on his wounds. Then he put the hurt man on his donkey and took him to an inn to take care of him. The next day, the helpful man gave the innkeeper money (**2 denarii**) to continue taking care of the hurt man until he was well.

**Oil and wine:** Olive oil was used to soothe the wounds of both humans and animals. Because of its alcohol content, wine was a good disinfectant.

**Denarius:** A denarius was one day’s wage for a common laborer. The *Nelson NKJV Study Bible* adds this footnote to Luke 10:35: “The Samaritan, if he paid a typical rate of one- twelfth of a denarius a day, paid for 24 days at the inn.” The Samaritan not only provided generously for the injured man’s care, but he made the commitment to return in about three weeks to see if additional funds were needed.

1. If that was all Jesus had to say, this parable was a remarkable story of kindness. But He made a point of telling His Jewish audience that the helpful man was a Samaritan. Remember when we talked about Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well? Remember that the Jews thought Samaritans were no better than dogs. It would have been hard for the Jews to imagine that a Samaritan could be a good person, much less someone willing to help a Jew. Jesus not only made the Samaritan the “good guy” in this story; He also made the priest and Levite (the religious leaders) the “bad guys.” [See Matthew 23:23.]
2. When Jesus finished the story of the Good Samaritan, He asked the lawyer (and the rest of the crowd), “Which of these three men acted like a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?” The lawyer realized that Jesus’ parable was the answer to his original question and had to answer, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Jesus told him that he should do the same. He should be ready to show concern and compassion toward others, because everyone was his neighbor.
3. There are many people around us who are sick or sad or lonely. They need encouragement and help. They need to know that others care about them. They are our neighbors, even if they don’t live next door or down the street, and even if they are our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
4. The priest and the Levite may have thought they were too busy to stop and help this man in need. Many times we may think we’re too busy to help others, but Jesus wants us to never be so busy that we don’t have time to help other people. People are more important to Jesus than busy activities!

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces. Lesson 129 in Betty Lukens Manual

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. The file will be labeled “01”
* Bandages and other items used to help someone who has been hurt

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Help children make “Be a Good Neighbor” bags. Inside bags, they can put band-aids, candy, get well cards, balloons—anything they could use to brighten someone’s day.
* Good Samaritan Mini Book – Copies in lesson file
* Role play the story.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Discuss with students the importance of helping everyone in need, not just our friends and family. Review the types of people Jesus spent time with while He was on this Earth (sinners, poor, sick, etc.). He helped those He was close to (Mary, Martha, Lazarus), but He also helped those He had never met before.
3. Discuss ways students can help others every day, and how to keep a watchful eye for ways to help others.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Ways to Be Kind Booklet – Template in lesson file
* Bandage Picture – Color the picture and add a bandage to the injured man’s leg. This would be a good picture to save to put in the students’ NT binders.
* Role play the story.

### Review Questions

1. Who tested Jesus?
   1. A lawyer
2. What did he ask?
   1. What he needed to do to inherit eternal life
3. What was Jesus’ answer?
   1. That he should love God with all of his heart and love his neighbor as himself
4. What did the lawyer ask in response?
   1. Who is my neighbor?
5. What did Jesus answer?
   1. He told the parable of the good Samaritan
6. Lawyers were members of what?
   1. The special Jewish council, called the Sanhedrin
7. Jesus told a parabble about a special man traveling from Jerusalem to where?
   1. Jericho
8. Who attacked the traveling man?
   1. Robbers
9. In what book of the New Testament is the story found?
   1. Luke
10. What did the priest do when he saw the man on the side of the road?
    1. Kept on walking and didn’t stop to help

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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