

## Jesus' Parables

**Theme:** Faith—Learning from Jesus; showing love through actions

**Works & Words activities related to this lesson**

*The Good Samaritan, Works & Words, Book 1, page 16*  
*Treasures, Works & Words, Book 2, page 16*



### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Go for the Bible Facts!

**Memory Verse:** Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the children may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Continue the display described in Lesson 4 by printing the Memory Verse on a yellow circle and attaching it to the traffic light. Prepare a yellow circle for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to put on the display as shown on page 9 of this Guide.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. In the classroom Bibles, find and read together Luke 10:30.
2. Define parable. Discuss how Jesus used parables to teach.
3. Move to the Bible story area.
4. Have the students point out the place on the time line when today's lesson events took place and tell whether this would be found in Old Testament. or New Testament.
5. Point out the area on a map where Jesus was teaching.
6. Ideas for telling the story:
  - Use *Stop, Look, and Listen Lesson Graphics* to tell selected parables.
  - Use Finger People from among those used in previous lessons.
  - Enhance the storytelling with other props such as a pearl, a bag of money, and different soils.
  - Let students tell the meanings of each parable.

7. Major points of today's lesson, adjusting more or less for different age groups:
- Jesus came to a point in His work that He began teaching in parables. Some people were having trouble understanding His message. Jesus used parables to help them understand (Matthew 13:10-13).
  - Any of the following parables are suitable for teaching children
    - The sower and the soils (Matthew 13:1-8)
    - Treasure in the Field & Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:44-46)
    - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
    - The Successful but Selfish Farmer (Luke 12:16-21)
    - The Loving Father (Luke 15:11-24)

Note: Jesus' parables are such good and simple stories that they are suitable to read aloud in class to the students

8. Read Luke 10:30-37 at the appropriate time during the lesson.
9. In teaching lessons from Jesus' parables to children, remember to isolate one main lesson from each parable and emphasize it in class. Make sure that you do not tell the parables just as good stories, but emphasize the main lessons Jesus was teaching.

### Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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## Jesus' Parables

**Theme:** Faith—Learning from Jesus; showing love through actions

**Works & Words activities related to this lesson** } *Forgiving Father, Works & Words, Book 1, page 17*  
*Parable Crossword, Works & Words, Book 2, page 17*

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Go for the Bible Facts!

**Memory Verse:** Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

Everybody loves a good story. You can learn some facts about something that happened, but it isn't like a story. Notice these facts for example: A shepherd had 100 sheep, one got lost, the shepherd looked for it, he found it and brought it home, everyone was happy.

Now listen to the facts told in a story — Luke 15:3-6. That's a lot different, isn't it? The facts are all there, but a story is more interesting and moving. This story is one of Jesus' parables. A parable is a story told to teach a lesson. A parable is often defined as "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Parables are stories from life that teach lessons from God.

#### Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

#### Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. **Objective:** To illustrate and reinforce the parable of the soils and the sower.

Have three containers in which you have soil. In one container, heavily mix sticks and weeds into the soil. In another container, mix rocks. In the third container, have only good, rich soil. Show the three kinds of soil to the students and discuss what will happen if you put seeds in each container. Teach how we must read the story not just to hear a good story but also to learn lessons from God. We must ask ourselves, "What kind of soil am I?" and "How can I be good soil?" How can we improve the soil in the containers? What about improving ourselves?

2. *Objective: To illustrate and reinforce the parable of the good Samaritan.*

Have some bandages. Role play Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan. Choose Victor the victim, Aaron the priest, Levi the Levite, and Sam the Samaritan. Also, choose someone to be Jack the donkey and Sheraton the innkeeper. Choose someone as the victim who is smaller and someone to be the donkey who is larger, so the victim can ride on the donkey's back. Assign the remaining students to be Bandits, the band of robbers. Designate a road on which Victor will travel and a site for the Sheraton Inn. Locate Aaron, Levi, and Sam a distance away from the road. From Luke 10:30-35, retell the parable in your own words. Have Victor walking alongside Jack down the road. The Bandits sneak up on Victor, beat him up, take his money, and leave him on the side of the road. Victor groans and calls for help. Aaron comes walking down the road, sees Victor hurting, but swings to the opposite side of the road to avoid being near. The priest mutters that he can't touch the wounded man because he is on the way to serve at the Temple. Next, Levi comes along the road, sees the hurting man, but also swings to the opposite side of the road to stay away from Victor. Victor calls out for help, but Levi explains that he is going to Jerusalem to help with sacrifices and he can't do anything to make his hands unclean. Next, Sam comes down the road. Explain how Jews and Samaritans usually hate each other. But Sam sees Victor as a hurting person, not as a man to hate. Sam goes directly to Victor, cleans and bandages his wounds, helps him up, and takes him along with him. Victor can't make it on his own, so Sam helps him onto the donkey, Jack. They go to the Sheraton Inn and Sam pays for Victor's stay and leaves extra money for any needs that might come up. Who was Victor's neighbor? What lesson from God can we learn from this story?

3. *Objective: Provide a brief history of the Samaritans and talk about why Jesus sometimes made them the hero of a story.*

Show a map of Israel and Assyria. Explain how God allowed the Assyrians to punish His people in the northern kingdom of Israel because they did not love and obey Him completely. Israel did not turn from idols, so God allowed Assyria to conquer them. When Assyria attacked, they brought in people from other countries to live in the land and took most Israelites out of Israel to live in other lands. The Assyrians left poorer people in Israel, and, in time, they married foreigners who came to live in the land. Because of this, the people in the northern part of Canaan were not purely Jews. These people became known as Samaritans, named after an important northern city called Samaria. About 700 years later, Jesus was born. The "Jews" in Judah looked down on the people in the north because they were not pure Jews. They were a mixed race. The Jews kept away from them, thinking they were "unclean" and not God's chosen people. Jesus loved Samaritans just as He loved Jews. He came to die for all people. He teaches us to love all people regardless of their race or other differences.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Wednesday Night**

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