

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



LOVE IN ACTION (1)

Matthew 25:35-40

In this session we unpack the story of the Good Samaritan, looking at how the Samaritan responded when he discovered the man who had been beaten up. We develop the point around who is my neighbour, who is part of my friendship group, who is sat around 'my table'.

Each child will need:

- Comic strip template (optional) – see Tell It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Play a game of *Simon Says*. Choose one child as 'Simon'. The other children watch 'Simon', who gives instructions by saying, 'Simon says ...' telling the children to perform a physical action. For example, 'Simon says touch your nose'; 'Simon says shake like a leaf.' Each child must perform the action. If 'Simon' leaves out 'Simon says ...' before giving the instruction, anyone who performed the activity is out! Perhaps they could cross their arms, or decide on another action to show that they're out.

- **Say:** Later on we'll be thinking about what this game would be like if it was called 'Jesus says ...', so keep that in mind as we play.

Sing It

Today's song shares the message that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.

Screen share: 'Love the Lord' Kids worship motions with lyrics by CJ and Friends
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMlxCdIY-c>

Tell It

- **Say:** Today we're learning what it looks like to put our love of God into action. Our story for today is found in the book of Luke and is called The Good Samaritan.

Video

Screen share: *The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)* by Saddleback Kids (3 min 8 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osfQg4yKtq8>

- **Say:** Now that you know the story, we're going to watch the clip again, but this time we're going to jot down the main events to help us create a comic strip (or graphic novel) together.

Depending on your group, the children could watch the whole clip and take notes, or you could complete the activity together, pausing the clip as you go along.

Comic strip

List the main events of the story and create a comic strip together using one of the options below.

a) Each child could use the story events to create their own comic strip.

Templates are available at this link: <https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/art/comic-strip-templates>

b) Each child could contribute a number of pictures along a strip of paper and these could be joined together as one comic strip. You may need to take a screenshot of the images to do this.

c) Each child could produce one picture. If you are meeting in person, then the children could join the comic strip together and display it. If you are meeting digitally, then you could go through the events of the story and each child could share their picture.

Main events

Here's a list of the main events – you may wish to reduce the number, depending on your group.

1. A religious teacher questioned Jesus, 'What should I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus replied, 'What does the law say?'
2. The man replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.'
3. The man asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus told a story.
4. A Jewish man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho.
5. He was attacked by bandits and left on the road.
6. A priest came along, but he crossed to the other side and passed him by.
7. A Levite, someone who worked in the Temple, came along, but he crossed to the other side and passed him by.
8. A Samaritan came along. They were hated by the Jews, but this Samaritan looked after the injured man.
9. The Samaritan took the man to an inn to be cared for and offered to keep paying for the innkeeper to look after him.
10. Jesus asked, 'Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour?'
11. The religious teacher replied, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said, 'Yes. Now go and do the same.'

Action It

Ask:

- ➔ Right at the end of the story of The Good Samaritan, what does Jesus ask us to do?
- ➔ What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'Now go and do the same'? What 'same things' does he want us to do?
- ➔ So, are you ready to find someone in need, book them into the Premier Inn, empty your money box and pay for their accommodation? Why not?

💡 **Say:** As children it's a bit tricky to do exactly what the Samaritan did, but perhaps that's not really what Jesus meant. Jesus wants us to love people the way he did.

Make sure your group knows that they must always make safe choices when helping others.

Ask:

- ➔ Why was it unusual for a Samaritan to help a Jew?
- ➔ Why is it important to show the love of Jesus to people, no matter who they are or what their background is?
- ➔ Who are our neighbours? Who are the people we meet and can show God cares for them?

🗨️ **Say:** At the start of the session we played the game Simon Says. Now think about the story of The Good Samaritan.

Ask: If we were playing a game of Jesus Says, then how would Jesus want us to treat other people?

As a group come up with some examples to finish the sentence, 'Jesus says ...'

Examples:

- ➔ Jesus says ... stick up for a friend when people are being unkind.
- ➔ Jesus says ... sit with a child who is eating alone at school.
- ➔ Jesus says ... invite someone to play at break time.

Pray It

Read the prayer together. **Screen share:**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us as much as you do. We know that you want us to show that love to everyone we meet. As we go through the week, show us the neighbour you would like us to care for. Show us ways to love people just like the Good Samaritan.

AMEN.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.