

The Good Samaritan

Bible Study Leader's Guide

TO BEGIN

Open the group in prayer (or ask one of the teens to do so).

GETTING FAMILIAR

READ: Luke 10:25-37

Q: What is going on?

A: Let the students explain in their own words

READ IT AGAIN: Luke 10:25-37

Q: Who are you in the story?

A: 1) The Passerby's

2) The man left 1/2 dead

- Both are correct!

DEEP DIVE: THE PASSERBY

READ: Luke 10:25-37

We are the Passerby:

Q: Why do you think that the Priest and the Levite passed by?

A: it was forbidden by Jewish law to touch the corpse of anyone other than family. They would have been unclean.



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Q: What are some social norms or expectations that might keep you from showing mercy to another person?

- Let them answer and discuss
- Examples (if needed): not cool, look different than us, we don't know them, they aren't nice to us

Q: Do you think that those things should keep us from showing mercy towards one another?

- Allow them to discuss
- Point out: verses 25-28
 - It is necessary for salvation that we show mercy to our neighbor, and everyone is our neighbor! So—not only should we show mercy towards other despite these things, we must do so to enter the Kingdom of God.

Q: When the Good Samaritan passes by what does he do?

A: He cleaned up the man, brought him to an Inn, and paid for his stay.

Q: Who were the Samaritans?

A: They were enemies of the Jews—so he was actually the least likely of the three to help the man! The Samaritan was willing to be unclean to help an enemy.

DEEP DIVE: THE MAN LEFT HALF DEAD

We are the man left half dead:

Q: If we are the man who is left for dead, who do you think the Samaritan represents ?

A: Christ

READ: Verses 29-35 again. Ask the students to think of Christ as the Samaritan and themselves as the man left for dead. How does the meaning of the passage change?



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READ: Verse 30 "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho"

Q: What do we know about these two cities?

A: Jerusalem = the Holy City
Jericho = a sinful city

Q: Figuratively, what does it mean that he was going from Jerusalem to Jericho?

A: he had fallen into sin or he was on a sinful path

READ: Verse 30 "He fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, leaving him half dead."

Q: How does our sin do this to us?

A: Robs us of our freedom, strips us of our dignity, leaves us spiritually half dead.

Q: When the Samaritan sees the man, what does he do?

- Allow them to discuss

Q: How is the similar to what Christ does for us?

- Allow them to discuss and lead them to these key points:
 - He sees us in our sin, has compassion on us, and comes to us. He does not leave us in our sin.
 - He cleans the wounds caused by sin with oil and wine
 - What do the oil and wine represent?
 - The Sacraments ** Very important point to make!
 - This means he cleans us of our sins and heals the wounds caused by sin through the Sacraments
 - Allow this to sink in and for any discussion that may arise.
 - He brings him to an Inn and pays for his stay
 - Christ paid the price for us to go to Heaven. He was himself stripped, beaten, and left for dead in order to pay for the debt of our sins.



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UNPACK

Q: What wounds do you have that may have been caused by sin and death? (may not be our own sins, may be the sins of others)

Q: How can we allow Christ to heal those wounds?

A: Through the Sacraments

- Attending mass
- Going to Confession
- Calling on our Baptismal and Confirmation graces

WRAP UP

Close in prayer by asking God to heal our wounds caused by sin through the Sacraments and for us to have the strength to show mercy to others as Christ has done for us.



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