

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-35

The parable of the compassionate Samaritan appears only in Luke 10:30-35. Jesus tells the parable in response to a lawyer's question about the greatest commandment; this question also appears in the Gospels of Mark (12:28-34) and Matthew (22:34-40), though without the story of the Samaritan.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's

parable offered below. A smaller version of the materials used in today's Godly Play presentation is available for home use; to order, contact Godly Play Resources (1-800-445-4390 or www.godlyplay.com) and ask for the "Miniature Parable of the Good Samaritan."

Whether you read the presentation or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today's presentation, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the parables can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Parables cannot ever be all used up. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation

There was once someone who did such amazing things and said such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him they heard him speaking of many things. Sometimes people asked him questions.

One day a person asked him what the most important thing in life is. The person he asked said, "You already know."

"That is true. I do. It is to love God and to love people just like they are your neighbors." The person paused a while and thought. He then asked another question, "But who is my neighbor?"

The person he asked then told this parable.

"There was once someone who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho. He was attacked by robbers. They hurt him, took everything that he had, and left him by the side of the road half dead.