



Parable Stories

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Our Mission:

At Youth Ministry Conversations, we believe you know your group best. This means our resources look a little different than what you may have experienced in the past. We try and create a “buffet” of material so you can choose and pick what works best for your group. You will find ideas, instructions, and possibilities in this packet all related to the theme of “Parable Stories.” How you use them, and how you structure your study is up to you. We hope you enjoy this resource and return in the future to check out other materials.

This Study:

Jesus recognized the power of a story. His stories, the parables, might be short in length but are deep in meaning and application for those who will hear them. Open your ears to hear the parables of Jesus and open your life to their transformative messages.

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The Writer:



David Woody has been working with teenagers for over 20 years and seeks to find ways to connect the Gospel and the Kingdom of God with everyday life. His role as Minister of Faith Development at Providence Baptist Church in Charleston, SC allows him the opportunity try his best to make those connections for all age groups.

He is a reader, a writer, a cyclist, and according to his daughters is “way too sensitive.” Woody recently self-published the Kindle book, *Active Prayers for Busy Families: 90 Activities to Pray on the Go Anytime, Anywhere*. Most importantly, he is married to Kristen and stays busy keeping up with his four children—Brooks, Blair, Sarah, and Matthew.



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Focus: Students will explore the Parable of the Good Samaritan and learn about compassion.

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Supplies:

- “First Aid Kit”—a roll of toilet paper, 2 band-aids, and a tiny bottle of lotion
- Injury cards—found at the end of this lesson
- Bible
- Band Aids, one for each student (separate from the First Aid Kit)
- Internet/Projector

Background on scripture and topic:

- Good + Samaritan

These two terms rarely, if ever, were put together. The Samaritans were hated by the Jews. To call one of them “good,” just wasn’t done. In the eyes of the Jews, none of the Samaritans were “good.”

- The Road

The road was known to be dangerous for travelers. It descended from Jerusalem (2300 ft above sea level) to Jericho, near the Dead Sea (1300 ft below sea level). The road descended more than 3600 feet with narrow passages, sharp turns, and numerous hiding places for thieves.

- The Traveler

Not much is known about him other than he was careless or reckless. Not many people in that day travelled alone, especially on that road.

- The Priest

Priests were divided into 24 courses, with each course serving in the Temple for two separate weeks in the year. According to Law, anyone who touched a dead body was unclean for 7 days. If the priest touched a dead body, he could do normal, everyday acts; but he could not perform any religious acts. If this priest was in his week of service in the Temple, he could not have performed his duties. Not knowing if the man was alive, the priest set the Temple ritual above the claims of humanity.

- The Levite

He looked at the body and then ran. Bandits liked to use decoys. The Levite might have thought this man was a decoy and did not want to be the victim, so he ran.

- The Samaritan

The Jews and Samaritans had quarreled for 450 years. They were at the bottom of the social totem pole. The name Samaritan was used as a term of loathing and contempt for those who were law breakers and renegades from orthodox Jewish religion. If a man did not keep ceremonial Jewish Law, he was labeled a Samaritan.

Parent email prompt:

Parents, this week we are studying the Parable of the Good Samaritan. It's one of those stories we think we know well, but it's always good to read again. Take time this week to read Luke 10:25-37. As you read, think about all the characters in the story and their reaction to the injured man on the road. And, reflect on compassion and what it means to you. You will have a lot to talk about with your student after we meet.

Text Prompt the night before:

Tomorrow's a big day. We're reading a story you think you know, but I'm not sure if you really know it. You know? You will after tomorrow!

Activity: "Medic"

Form groups of 2-4, depending on the number of students present. If possible, form at least three different groups. Give each group a "First Aid Kit" that you prepared before class. Tell each group they must select one of their members to be the "victim." After the "victim" is chosen, ask a volunteer from each group to come forward and select an "Injury" card from you.

After each group has a "victim" and an Injury card, tell the groups they have 5 minutes to "apply first aid" to their victim. The victim has all of the injuries listed on the card. If you have more than four groups, you will need to make extra copies of the cards. The toilet paper is a large wrap, like an ace-bandage or long roll of gauze. The band-aids, are band-aids. The lotion is any type of antiseptic cream or healing ointment.

Give them time to work and let them do it. At the end of five minutes, have everyone stop and then share the victim's wounds and quickly discuss how treatment was administered.

Ask these questions before moving on:

- How did it feel to be the victim?
- What do you think happened to you to cause all of the injuries?
- How did it feel to be the helper(s)?
- Did you ever think about what caused the injuries or did you just help? Why?
- How would you define the word compassion?

Prayer Time:

Ask your group for prayer requests, specifically for those who need specific help from God. Write down the names of those spoken and the reasons for the requests. Then, ask each student to silently choose one person to pray for. After a time of silent prayer, close the prayer with a spoken prayer, naming each person on the list and asking for God's presence and help.

Video:

As a preview to the scripture, watch this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr0Vn5QBMtM>

What are your student's reactions to this interpretation of the story?

Scripture Reading: Have someone read Luke 10:25-37

Large Group discussion questions:

Ask these questions for discussion:

- What is your first reaction/impression of this story?
- Is it ever OK to "pass on by" and not help someone? When?
- Do you feel compelled to stop and help everyone? Why?
- After hearing a little more about the priest, how do you feel about his actions?
- After hearing a little more about the Levite, how do you feel about his actions?
- Why do you think the Samaritan stopped and helped?

Small group questions:

Ask the small groups to think about this story as if it happened today.

- What would be the situation where someone would find themselves needing serious help?
- Who would “pass by” and not help? What would keep them from helping?
- Who is a modern-day Samaritan that you would not expect help from?
- How would they help?

Small group activity:

Talk about compassion and the inner drive we have to reach out and help others. If appropriate share a personal story about when you helped someone who didn't expect it—not that you were the Samaritan, but that your help wasn't expected.

Some questions for the small groups to think about and discuss:

- What is compassion?
- Are love and compassion the same thing?
- Does a relationship with Christ impact compassion?
- When do we let our fears dictate our actions?
- When do we risk everything to help someone “not like us?” Do we do it out of love or obligation? Does the motivation make a difference or is the action enough?
- What does “Go and do likewise” mean to you?

Share this quote by Henri Nouwen:

Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.

Tangible Item they leave with:

Give each student a band aid to remind them of the opportunities they have every day to show compassion and show love like the Good Samaritan.

Remind Youth:

This classic story is known well outside church circles. The phrase, “Good Samaritan,” is a part of our worldly culture. This story is more than a story about helping others, it is also a story about the compassion we have built-in to us. Remind them to ask for God’s strength and courage to use that compassion daily, regardless of who needs it and regardless of how we feel about the other person.

INJURY CARD

Cut hand
Cut food
Dislocated Wrist
Broken Nose
Cracked Ribs

INJURY CARD

Twisted knee
Cut ear
Scraped elbows
Sprained Neck
Large gash on the skull

INJURY CARD

Cut foot
Separated Shoulder
Cut over the eye
Broken Ribs
Broken Leg

INJURY CARD

Twisted Ankles
Cut arm
Cut leg
Facial cuts
Poked Eye