

The parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus loved talking to people. He loved telling them about God and how God wanted people to be kind and to 'love one another'. He really wanted them to understand this– and so he told them the best way was to 'love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

One man wasn't very sure what Jesus meant by this, so he asked him a question. 'Who is my neighbour?' he asked.

Jesus answered by telling a story.

'There was once a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was a long hot dusty road. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead.

Luckily, a holy man – a priest – was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he turned away and walked on by on the other side.

Then another man came along. This man was also a holy man. He worked in the temple in Jerusalem. But he too carried on walking, taking no notice of the injured man.

Next, a visitor from another country (a Samaritan) travelling the road came across the injured man. When he saw him, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable.

In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill – I'll pay you on my way back."

What does this story really mean?

You have already written what you think the meaning of this parable was. Parables were stories with a hidden meaning that Jesus told to make a point. The end of the story shows Jesus explaining the meaning of the story. Read it below.

What do you think?' Jesus asked. 'Which of the three was a neighbour to the man attacked by robbers?'

'The one who treated him kindly,' the man replied. Jesus said, 'Go and do the same.'

Based on Luke Chapter 10, verses 30-33

After you have read the end of the story answer these questions.

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

One reason Jesus told this story was to teach people how to behave. How might people have been behaving for Jesus to need to tell this story?

Who is your neighbour?

It is clear from the story that Jesus wanted people to understand that their neighbour could be anyone, certainly not just the person living in the next door house. This teaches many Christians nowadays to love and care for all others, even other people different from themselves. People who are not religious or who come from religions other than Christianity also have this belief. It is often called the Golden rule.

Think about who your neighbour is (remember, do not just choose next door neighbour!). Why is it important to 'love your neighbour' or follow the Golden rule?

| My neighbour is... | It is important to love this neighbour because... |
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Good Samaritans in my area

At the moment we all have to stay in our houses as much as possible to keep us all safe. Lots of people are helping people in their local community. Almost a million people have signed up to help people on an App called GoodSam. I bet you can guess why it is called that!

Think about what is happening where you live. Draw or write about one or two examples of people being 'Good Samaritans' in your area.

