

Open Bible Stories — The Story of the Good Samaritan

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of the Good Samaritan teaches us that loving our neighbor as ourselves is a fulfillment of God's law.

Core Belief Verse

"For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Romans 13:9-10

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil and the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born. He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion

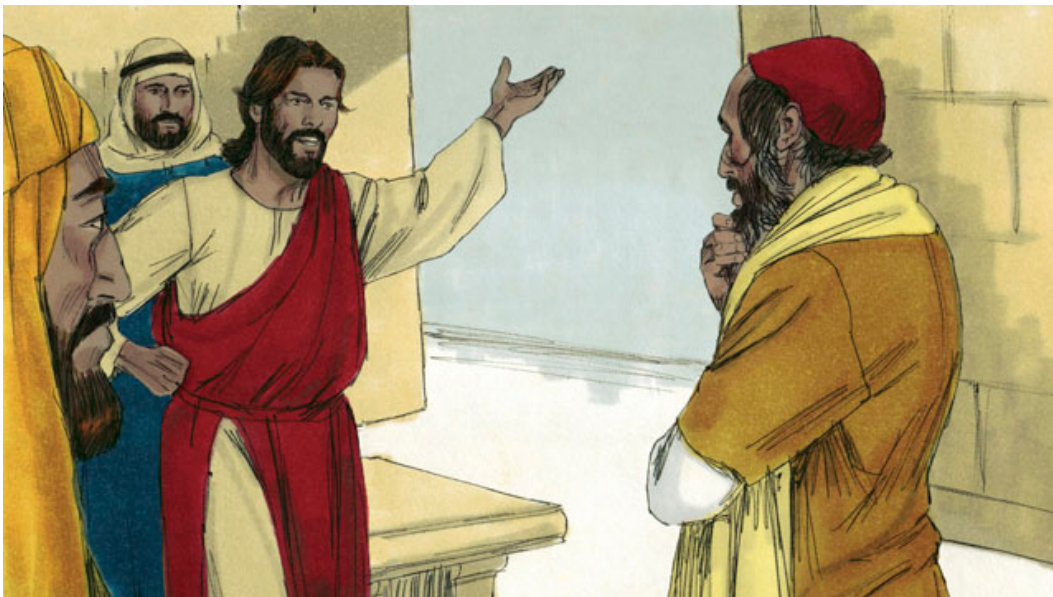
The Story: The Story of the Good Samaritan

27-01



One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus. He wanted to show everyone that Jesus was teaching wrongly. So he said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in God's law?"

27-02



The man said, "It says, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.'" Jesus answered, "You are correct! If you do this, you will have eternal life."

27-03



But the law expert wanted to show the people that his way of living was correct. So he asked Jesus, "Well then, who is my neighbor?"

27-04



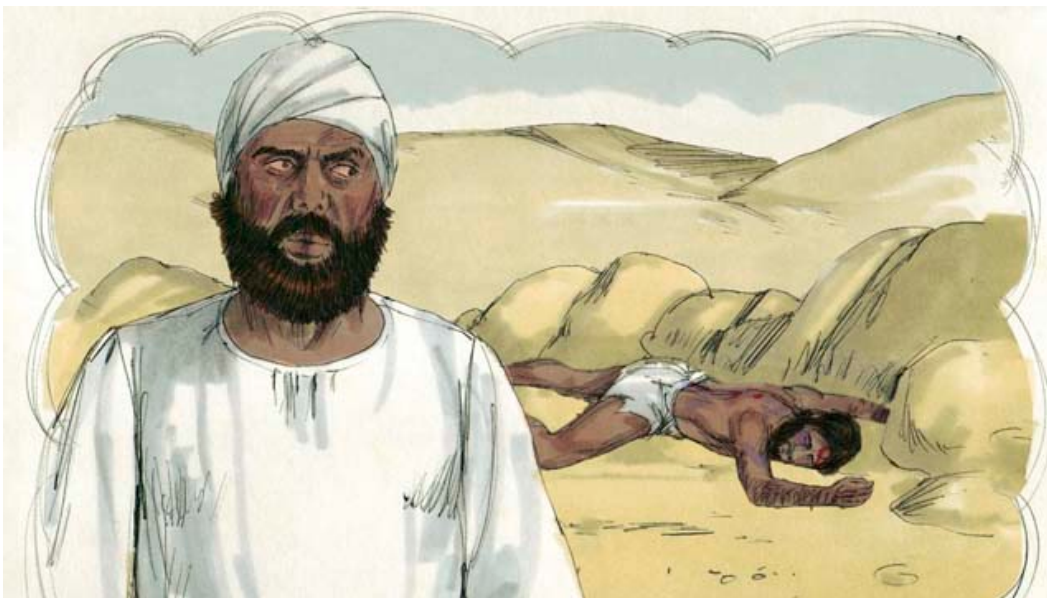
Jesus answered the law expert by telling a story. "There was a Jewish man who was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho."

27-05



"But some robbers saw him and attacked him. They took everything he had and beat him until he was almost dead. Then they went away."

27-06



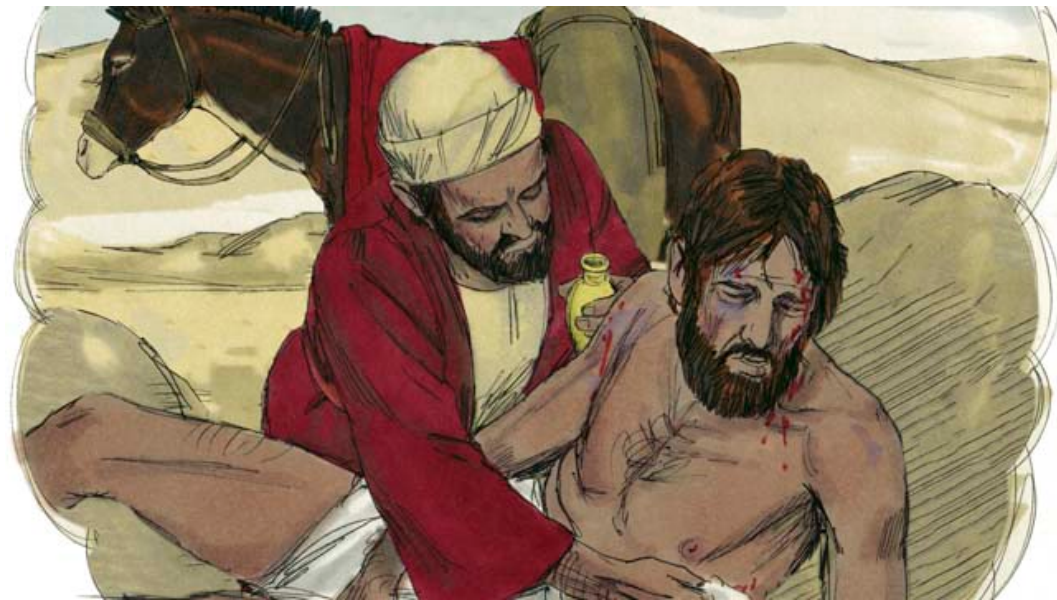
"Soon after that, a Jewish priest happened to walk down that same road. This priest saw that man lying in the road. When he saw him, he moved to the other side of the road and kept on going. He completely ignored that man."

27-07



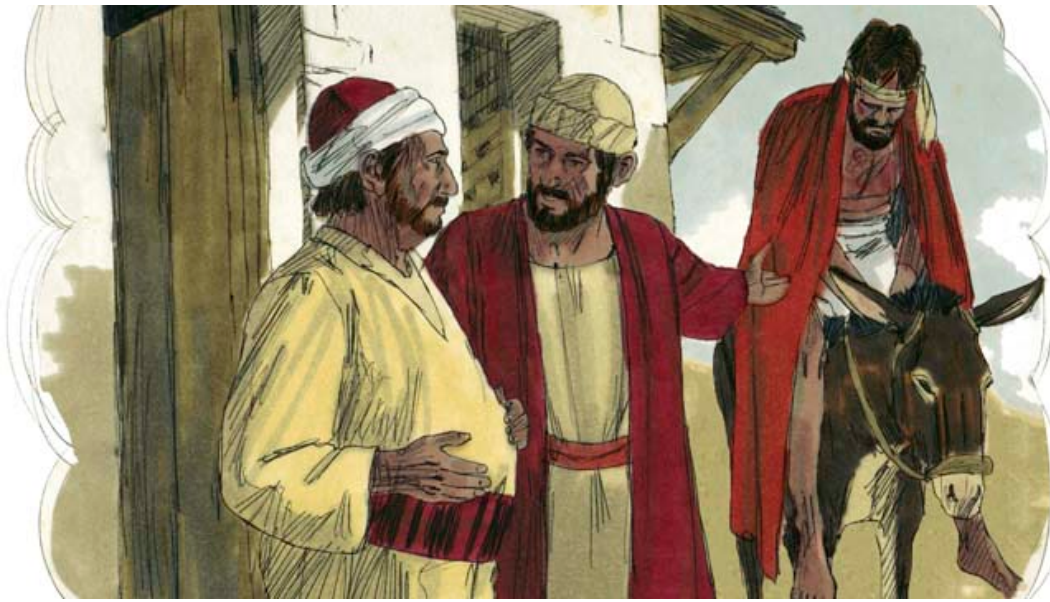
"Not long after that, a Levite came down the road. (Levites were a tribe of Jews who helped the priests at the Temple.) The Levite also crossed over to the other side of the road. He also ignored that man."

27-08



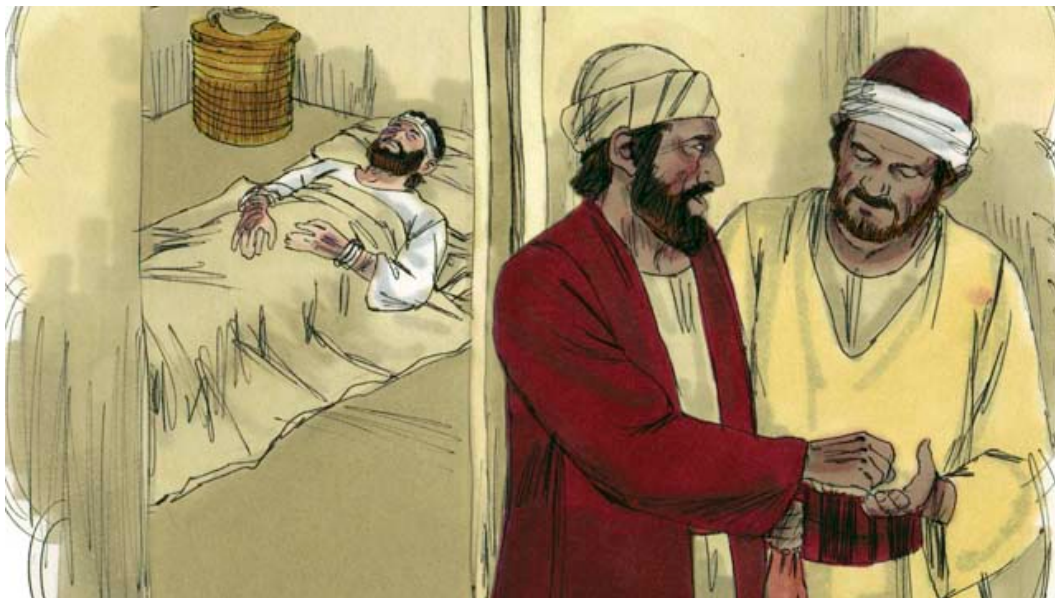
"The next person to walk down that road was a man from Samaria. (Samaritans and Jews hated each other.) The Samaritan saw the man in the road. He saw he was Jewish, but he still had very strong compassion for him. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds."

27-09

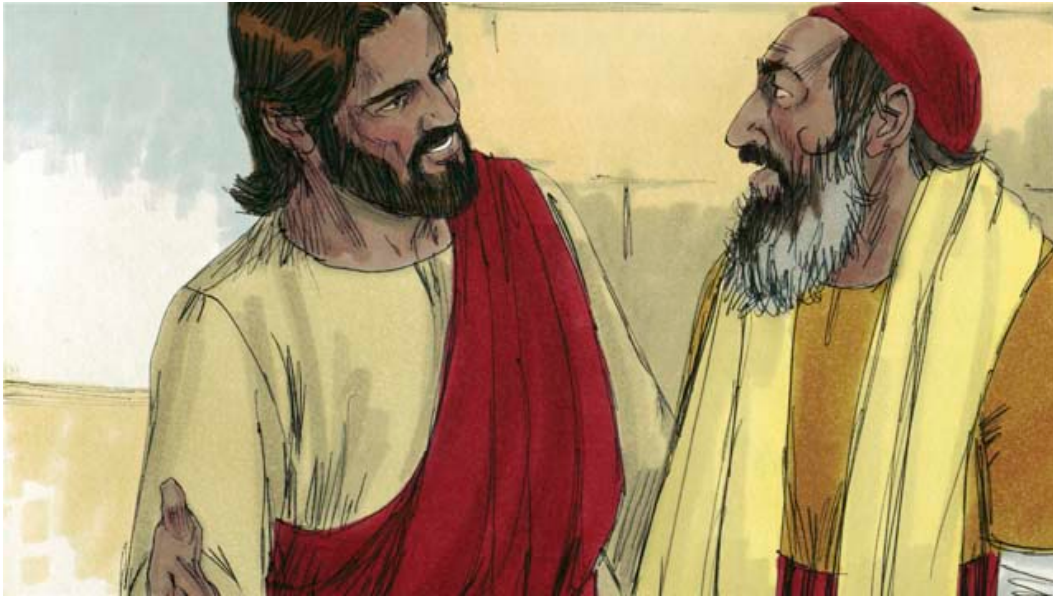


"Then the Samaritan lifted the man onto his own donkey. He took him to an inn by the road. There he continued to take care of him."

27-10



"The next day, the Samaritan needed to continue his journey. He gave some money to the person in charge of the inn. He said to him, 'Take care of this man. If you spend any more money than this, I will repay those expenses when I return.'"



Then Jesus asked the law expert, "What do you think? Which one of the three men was a neighbor to the man who was robbed and beaten?" He replied, "The one who was merciful to him." Jesus told him, "You go and do the same."

A Bible story from: Luke 10:25-37

Community Study: Taking Up Our Cross— Following Jesus in Self-Denial

- **Key Idea:** demonstrating a full commitment to Jesus
- **Key Passage:** Matthew 16:24-28
- **Main Session:** OBS 27 (The Story of the Good Samaritan)

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

Recite the Creedal Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

Love does not harm one's neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:10

OR

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and first commandment. And a second commandment is like it—'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39

Think Together (5 minutes)

Think together about what it means to be fully committed to something or someone. Have different members of the community share examples of what commitment looks like and explain why they think such examples show commitment.

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

Jesus calls us to follow him. The life of a Christian is fully devoted to Jesus. As a community, read the following Bible passage together to understand what it means to be committed to Jesus and his work.

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever

loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what does it profit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? What can a person give in exchange for his life? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels. Then he will reward every person according to what he has done. 28 Truly I say to you, there are some of you standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." Matthew 16:24-28

Explore the Passage (10-15 minutes)

Christians follow Jesus knowing that they will encounter hardship. The Christian life requires full commitment to Jesus. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. What kind of commitment does Jesus ask his followers to make?
2. What challenges make this commitment difficult?
3. What will you have to give up to be fully committed to Jesus? What do you gain by fully following Jesus?
4. How does Jesus motivate us to be fully committed to him?
5. How can your community encourage one another in commitment to Jesus and his work?

Say it in Your own Words (10-15 minutes)

Try to say what it means to be committed to Jesus in your own words. Use the follow sentences as a guide. Then, share your sentences with the whole community.

To follow Jesus and serve his work, I must deny/lose... When I follow Jesus with my whole life, he will provide for me these things... Our community will be fully committed to Jesus when it looks like this...

Pray to God (5 minutes)

After sharing your thoughts about what it means to follow Jesus in full commitment, pray that God would help your community be fully committed to Jesus and his work.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

27-01

What kind of expert came to Jesus?

One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus.

Why did the expert in the Jewish law come to Jesus?

He wanted to show everyone that Jesus was teaching wrongly.

What question did the expert in the Jewish law ask Jesus?

He asked Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

What question did Jesus ask the expert in response?

Jesus asked him, "What is written in God's law?"

27-02

What did the man say was written in God's law?

The man told Jesus that the law said to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.

How did Jesus respond to the man's answer?

Jesus told the man that he was correct and that if he did these things he would have eternal life.

27-03

Why did the expert in the Jewish law ask who his neighbor was?

He wanted to prove that his way of living was correct.

27-04

How did Jesus answer the law expert?

Jesus answered the law expert by telling him a story.

What was the story about?

Jesus told a story about a Jewish man who was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

27-05

In Jesus' story, what happened to the Jewish man while he was traveling?

Robbers attacked him, took everything he had, and beat him until he was almost dead.

27-06

Who was the first person to see the wounded man?

The first person was a Jewish priest.

What did the priest do when he saw the wounded man?

When the Jewish priest saw the man lying on the road, he moved to the other side, passed by him, and ignored the man.

27-07

Who was the second person to see the wounded man and pass by?

A Levite came next.

Who were the Levites?

Levites were a tribe of Jews who helped the priests at the Temple.

What did the Levite do when he saw the wounded man?

The Levite, crossed over to the other side of the road and ignored the man.

27-08

Who was the third person to see the wounded man?

He was a Samaritan.

What was the relationship between Jews and Samaritans?

They hated each other.

What did the Samaritan do when he saw the wounded man?

The Samaritan had a very strong compassion for the wounded man and bandaged his wounds.

27-09

How did the Samaritan help the wounded man?

The Samaritan put him on his own donkey, took him to a roadside inn, and took care of him.

27-10

On the next day, what did the Samaritan give to the person in charge of the inn?

On the next day, the Samaritan gave some money to the person in charge of the inn.

What did the Samaritan tell the person in charge of the inn?

The Samaritan told him to take care of the man, and that he would repay him for those expenses when he returned.

27-11

What did Jesus ask the Jewish law expert after telling this story?

Jesus asked the Jewish law expert who he thought was a neighbor to the man who was beaten.

Which of the three men acted like a neighbor to the man who was robbed and beaten?

The Samaritan who was merciful to the man was a neighbor to him.

What did Jesus tell the Jewish law expert?

Jesus told the Jewish law expert to go and do the same as the Samaritan did.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How can someone inherit eternal life? What does this story teach about how someone can receive eternal life?
2. How is the command to love God and love others a summary of what it means to follow God? How does this story show how loving others is a way of loving God?
3. What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves? How does this story teach us about what it means to genuinely love our neighbors as ourselves?
4. What kinds of attitudes beliefs can keep us from following God? How did the Jewish law expert need to change in this story?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. Have you received eternal life? How do you know?
2. How well are you loving God completely (with your whole being) and loving others compassionately (as yourself)?
3. What attitudes, actions, and beliefs are keeping you from fully following Christ?
4. Think about this week. Where does "The Story of the Good Samaritan" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of the Good Samaritan teaches us that loving our neighbor as ourselves is a fulfillment of God's law.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "The Story of the Good Samaritan" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

1. Who is one specific person you will share "The Story of the Good Samaritan" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with others. Record your witness plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.