

The Good Samaritan

The **parable** of the Good Samaritan is a story which was told by Jesus and is recorded in the Bible.

The Gospel of Luke

The famous parable of the Good Samaritan is told in the Gospel According to Luke – a book of the Bible. It can be found within this Gospel in Chapter 10, verses 25-37.

The Parable Itself

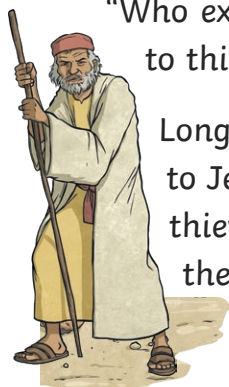
As Jesus spoke to his followers, a **lawyer** stood up to test him. “Teacher, what must I do to have **eternal life**?” asked the lawyer.

“What is written in the law?” Jesus asked the lawyer.

“Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your strength and with all of your mind,” the lawyer replied. “You must love your neighbour as yourself.”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus said. “Do this and you will live.”

“Who exactly is my neighbour?” the lawyer asked. In response to this question, Jesus told a parable.



Long ago, a Jewish man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho along a dangerous road. As he walked, two thieves jumped out onto the road and attacked him; they beat, stripped and robbed the Jewish man before running away, leaving him barely alive at the side of the road.



A short while later, a priest saw the injured Jewish man at the side of the road. Rather than rushing to help him, the priest crossed the road and passed by on the other side. A few moments later, a **Levite** also found the wounded man. Just as the priest had done, the Levite crossed the road and passed by the Jewish man.



Later, a **Samaritan** was walking along the road when he caught sight of the injured man. At the time, Samaritans and Jewish people did not like each other: each group of people tried to destroy the holy temples of the other. It would not have been expected that the Samaritan would help the Jewish man yet the Samaritan took pity on him.

The Samaritan poured oil and wine onto the Jewish man's wounds to treat them before wrapping them in bandages. He carried the injured man to his donkey and took him to a nearby inn. When they reached the inn, the Samaritan took two silver coins from his pocket and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," said the Samaritan. "When I return, I will pay back any extra money that you have spent."



Jesus then turned to the lawyer and asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the Jewish man?"

"The one who had mercy on him," the lawyer replied.

"Go and do the same," Jesus said.

Did You Know...?

Today, the term 'good Samaritan' is still used to describe any kind person who helps a stranger in need.



The Parable in Art

The parable of the Good Samaritan has been seen in art since it was first told. It was very popular during medieval times and many artists, including Vincent van Gogh, have created their own paintings of the famous story. Music composed by Benjamin Britten tells the story of the Good Samaritan and poets such as Henry Lawson have told the parable through verse.

Glossary

eternal life – Continuing to live in spirit after the physical body has died.

lawyer – An expert on the law.

Levite – A member of the tribe of Levi, who helped priests in the temple.

parable – A story used to show a moral lesson.

Samaritan – In biblical times, a person who lived in Samaria.

Questions

1. Where was the Jewish man travelling to? Tick one.

- Samaria
- Jerusalem
- Jericho
- Rome

2. Who stood up to test Jesus? Tick one.

- a Samaritan
- a Levite
- a priest
- a lawyer

3. Look at the section called **The Gospel of Luke**.

Find and copy one word which shows that lots of people know the parable of the Good Samaritan.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **A short while later...**

Find and copy **two** words which mean the same as **hurt**.

1. _____

2. _____

5. Who did the Jewish man encounter first on the road?

6. Explain why people still use the term 'good Samaritan' today.

7. Summarise what Jesus' parable teaches about who your neighbour is.

8. Why would the priest and the Levite have been expected to help the Jewish man?

Answers

1. Where was the Jewish man travelling to? Tick one.

- Samaria
- Jerusalem
- Jericho**
- Rome

2. Who stood up to test Jesus? Tick one.

- a Samaritan
- a Levite
- a priest
- a lawyer**

3. Look at the section called **The Gospel of Luke**.

Find and copy one word which shows that lots of people know the parable of the Good Samaritan.

famous

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **A short while later...**

Find and copy **two** words which mean the same as **hurt**.

1. **injured** 2. **wounded**

5. Who did the Jewish man encounter first on the road?

The Jewish man encountered two thieves on the road first.

6. Explain why people still use the term 'good Samaritan' today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: People still use the term 'good Samaritan' today because it represents a kind person who does things for strangers, just like the Samaritan in the story did.

7. Summarise what Jesus' parable teaches about who your neighbour is.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Jesus' parable teaches that your neighbour is anybody you see who is in need, even if you would not normally speak to them.

8. Why would the priest and the Levite have been expected to help the Jewish man?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The priest and the Levite would have been expected to help the Jewish man because they were religious men and that would normally mean that they show kindness to others in need.

The Good Samaritan

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story which was told by Jesus and is recorded in the Bible. The story has inspired painting, sculpture and poetry throughout history and remains popular today.

What Is a Parable?

The famous parable of the Good Samaritan is told in the Gospel According to Luke – a book of the Bible which tells of the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found within this Gospel in Chapter 10, verses 25-37.

What Happens in the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

The Gospel of Luke tells that, as Jesus spoke to his followers, a **lawyer** stood up to test him. “Teacher,” said the lawyer, “what must I do to have **eternal life**?”

Jesus replied and questioned the man. “What is written in the law?” he asked.

“Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your strength and with all of your mind,” the lawyer replied. “You must love your neighbour as yourself.”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus confirmed. “Do this and you will live.”

Unhappy with Jesus’ reply, the lawyer continued to question him. “Who exactly is my neighbour?” he asked. In response to this question, Jesus replied with the parable.



Many years ago, a Jewish man began to travel from Jerusalem to Jericho along a dangerous and difficult road which wound through a rocky landscape. As he travelled, two thieves (who had been hidden at the roadside) emerged and attacked the unsuspecting man; they beat, stripped and robbed him before escaping from the scene, leaving the Jewish man barely alive at the side of the road.



A short while later, a priest stumbled across the injured Jewish man who lay beaten at the side of the road. Rather than rushing to help him, the priest crossed the road and passed by on the other side. A few moments later,

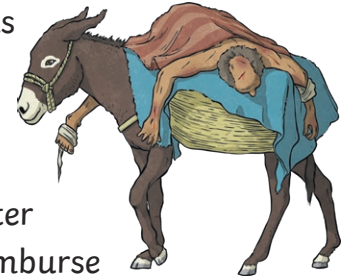


a **Levite** also found the wounded man who was greatly in need of help. Just as the priest had done before him, the Levite crossed the road and passed by the Jewish man.

The Good Samaritan

As the sun was starting to set, a **Samaritan** travelling along the notorious road caught sight of the injured man. Historically, Samaritans and Jewish people were enemies: each group of people tried to destroy the holy temples of the other. It would have been expected that the Samaritan would take the same course of action as the priest and the Levite had done before him. Yet, the Samaritan took pity on the injured man.

He immediately poured oil and wine onto the man's wounds to treat them before wrapping them in bandages. He carried the injured man to his donkey before taking him to a nearby inn. When they reached the inn, the Samaritan took out two **denarii** and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," said the Samaritan, "and, when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra money you have spent."



Jesus then turned to the lawyer and asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of thieves?"

"The one who had mercy on him," the lawyer replied.

"Go and do the same," Jesus concluded.

Influence on the Arts

The parable of the Good Samaritan has had a huge influence on art and language throughout the centuries since it was first told. Although particularly popular during medieval times, even relatively modern artists, such as Vincent van Gogh and Rembrandt, have created their own paintings of the famous story. Music composed by Benjamin Britten tells the story of the Good Samaritan while poets such as Henry Lawson have told the parable through verse.

Influence Today

Today, the term 'good Samaritan' is commonly used as a metaphor. It is used to describe any charitable person who helps a stranger in need – just as the Samaritan of Jesus' parable did.

Glossary

eternal life – Continuing to live in spirit after the physical body has died.

denarii – Ancient Roman silver coins

lawyer – An expert on the law.

Levite – A member of the tribe of Levi, who helped priests in the temple.

Samaritan – In biblical times, a person who lived in Samaria.

Questions

1. What did the Samaritan **pour** onto the Jewish man's wounds? Tick **two**.

- ointment
- wine
- oil
- bandages

2. Who may be described as a 'good Samaritan' today? Tick one.

- a person from biblical times
- a person from Samaria
- a charitable person who helps strangers
- a religious person who attends church

3. What are denarii?

4. Find and copy **two** adjectives which describe the road that the Jewish man was travelling along.

1. _____

2. _____

5. **...when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra money you have spent.**

What does the word **reimburse** mean in this sentence?

6. Why was the Jewish man described as **unsuspecting**?

7. Explain why Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

8. Explain why the actions of the priest were surprising.

9. Summarise how the parable of the Good Samaritan has influenced art.

Answers

1. What did the Samaritan **pour** onto the Jewish man's wounds? Tick **two**.

- ointment
- wine**
- oil**
- bandages

2. Who may be described as a 'good Samaritan' today? Tick one.

- a person from biblical times
- a person from Samaria
- a charitable person who helps strangers**
- a religious person who attends church

3. What are denarii?

Denarii are ancient Roman silver coins.

4. Find and copy **two** adjectives which describe the road that the Jewish man was travelling along.

1. **dangerous** 2. **difficult**

5. **...when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra money you have spent.**

What does the word **reimburse** mean in this sentence?

The word 'reimburse' means to pay back.

6. Why was the Jewish man described as **unsuspecting**?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Jewish man was unsuspecting because the thieves were hidden so he did not expect them to jump out and attack him.

7. Explain why Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan because he wanted to make it clear to the lawyer that he should be a neighbour to everyone and this was a clear and easy way to present it.

8. Explain why the actions of the priest were surprising.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The actions of the priest were surprising because priests are usually seen as kind and caring figures who help others and this priest left the injured Jewish man by the side of the road.

9. Summarise how the parable of the Good Samaritan has influenced art.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Lots of paintings, poems and pieces of music have been created based on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The Good Samaritan

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story which was told by Jesus and is recorded in the Bible. It is a story which has inspired painting, sculpture and poetry throughout history and a term which remains engrained in modern-day language.

Biblical Origins

The famous parable of the Good Samaritan is told in the third of four Gospels in the Bible – the Gospel According to Luke – which recounts the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found within this Gospel in Chapter 10, verses 25-37. The biblical reference for this is written as 'Luke 10:25-37'.

The Parable Itself

The Gospel of Luke recounts that, as Jesus spoke to his followers, an expert in the law stood up to test him. "Teacher," said the man, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Without hesitation, Jesus replied and questioned the man. "What is written in the law?" he asked.

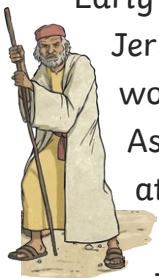
"Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your strength and with all of your mind," the lawyer replied. "You must love your neighbour as yourself."

"You have answered correctly," Jesus confirmed. "Do this and you will live."

Dissatisfied with Jesus' reply, the lawyer continued to question him. "Who exactly is my neighbour?" he probed. In response to such a question, Jesus replied with the parable.

Early one morning, a Jewish man began to travel from Jerusalem to Jericho along a notoriously dangerous and difficult road which wound and meandered through a rocky and hilly landscape.

As he travelled, two thieves (who had concealed themselves at the roadside) emerged and attacked the man; they beat, stripped and robbed him before fleeing the scene, leaving the Jewish man scarcely alive at the side of the road.



A short while after the attack, a priest (suspected to have been returning from the temple in Jerusalem) happened across the injured Jewish man who lay beaten at the side of the road. Rather than rushing to his assistance, the priest crossed the road and passed by on the other side. A few moments later, a Levite (an assistant to

the priest at the temple) also happened across the wounded man who was greatly in need of help. Just as the priest had done before him, the Levite crossed the road and passed by the Jewish man.

However, as the sun was beginning to set, a Samaritan travelling along the notorious route caught sight of the injured man. Historically, Samaritans and Jewish people were enemies – with each community seeking to destroy the holy temples of the other. Tension and ill feeling were rife between the Jewish and Samaritan people; it would have been expected that the Samaritan would take the same course of action as the priest and the Levite had done before him. Yet, the Samaritan took pity on the injured man.

He immediately tended to the man's wounds, pouring oil and wine on them to treat them before bandaging them securely. He carried the injured man to his donkey before taking him to a nearby inn. When they reached the inn, the Samaritan took out two denarii (ancient Roman silver coins) and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," said the Samaritan, "and, when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you have incurred."



Jesus then turned to the lawyer and asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of thieves?"

"The one who had mercy on him," the lawyer understandably replied.

"Go and do likewise," Jesus concluded.

Influence on the Arts

The parable of the Good Samaritan has had a huge influence on art and language throughout the centuries since it was first told. Although particularly popular during medieval times, even relatively modern artists, such as Vincent van Gogh and Rembrandt, have created their own depictions of the famous story. Music composed by Benjamin Britten tells the story of the Good Samaritan in Latin, while poets such as Henry Lawson and John Gardiner Calkins Brainard immortalise the parable through verse.

Language Today

Today, the term 'good Samaritan' is commonly used as a metaphor. It applies to any charitable person who helps a stranger that is in need – just as the Samaritan of Jesus' parable did.

Questions

1. ...a term which remains engrained in modern-day language.

Which of the following is a synonym of the word **engrained**? Tick one.

- flourished
- established
- dismissed
- hindered

2. Which of these phrases best describes what the Levite did? Tick one.

- regularly travelled dangerous routes
- assisted the priest at the temple
- provided medical assistance to others
- attended schooling for religious people

3. The last section of the text is called **Language Today**.

Write a suitable new sub-heading for this section.

4. Precisely where in the Bible can the parable of the Good Samaritan be found?

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Early one morning...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as the word **hidden**.

6. Explain why it was unexpected that the Samaritan would help the Jewish man.

7. Summarise how the parable of the Good Samaritan continues to influence society today.

8. **...along a notoriously dangerous and difficult road...**

Explain what the word **notorious** implies about the road.

9. How do you know that the Jewish man was severely injured? Give **two** reasons.

10. Explain how you know that the Jewish man remained at the roadside for a long time.

Answers

1. ...a term which remains engrained in modern-day language.

Which of the following is a synonym of the word **engrained**? Tick one.

- flourished
- established**
- dismissed
- hindered

2. Which of these phrases best describes what the Levite did? Tick one.

- regularly travelled dangerous routes
- assisted the priest at the temple**
- provided medical assistance to others
- attended schooling for religious people

3. The last section of the text is called **Language Today**.

Write a suitable new sub-heading for this section.

Accept any suitable answer based on the contents of the last paragraph, such as: The Parable's Legacy.

4. Precisely where in the Bible can the parable of the Good Samaritan be found?

Accept either of the following answers: the Gospel According to Luke in Chapter 10, verses 25-37; Luke 10:25-37.

Do not accept 'Gospel of Luke' or 'Luke'.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **Early one morning...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as the word **hidden**.
concealed

6. Explain why it was unexpected that the Samaritan would help the Jewish man.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It was unexpected that the Samaritan would help the Jewish man due to the tension and ill feeling between their two communities.

7. Summarise how the parable of the Good Samaritan continues to influence society today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The parable of the Good Samaritan continues to influence society today through art, music and poetry. The metaphor 'good Samaritan' is still used within language today.

8. **...along a notoriously dangerous and difficult road...**

Explain what the word **notorious** implies about the road.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'notorious' implies that the road had a reputation for being dangerous and difficult to travel down because bad things have happened on it before.

9. How do you know that the Jewish man was severely injured? Give **two** reasons.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that the Jewish man was severely injured because the text says that the thieves left him 'scarcely alive'. The text also says that he was 'greatly in need of help' which must mean that he was unable to help himself.

10. Explain how you know that the Jewish man remained at the roadside for a long time.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that the Jewish man remained at the roadside for a long time because the text says that he set off on his journey 'early one morning' but was only rescued by the Samaritan 'as the sun was beginning to set'.