

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Summary

The story is retold by Jesus and a narrator, prompted by questions from members of the congregation.

Children dress up and are guided to re-enact the story, in a very simplified form, as they hear it told.

Preparation and delivery

In advance, or at the beginning of the service, give out copies of the script to three adults (Crowd 1, Crowd 2 & Crowd 3), who will remain seated in the congregation while they call out their words.

At the beginning of the story, select children to be the traveller, robbers, priest, pharisee, Samaritan and inn-keeper. Explain where they're to stand at the start of the story (e.g. the travellers might start off at the end of an aisle, the robbers wait further along and the inn-keeper at the other end). Give out the props.

As the story is told, an adult will need to guide the children through their actions. This is simply a matter of letting them know when to walk and when to stop, and quietly encouraging them to act out anything that's heard in the story.

Props

5 copies of the script

Any simple items you can think of, to help the children feel involved in the parts they're playing, such as hats, bandanas, Bibles, etc. to demarcate roles, a hobby horse for the Samaritan, money for the Samaritan to give the inn-keeper, etc.

Narrator: Jesus was teaching one day when a man in the crowd asked him a question.

Crowd 1: Can you tell me, Jesus, what I have to do to live for ever?

Jesus: Love God, and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.

Narrator: But the man in the crowd hoped to trick Jesus.

Crowd 1: Who is my neighbour? Is he just the person who lives next door?

Jesus: Let me tell you a story, and I think you will understand.

Once upon a time, there was a man - a man like any one of us - who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Now as you all know, that is a very dangerous road. It's twisty and it's steep, and there's no end of places for robbers and thieves to hide.

Well, the robbers were waiting that day. And they grabbed the man. And they beat him. And they took his money and left him to die.

Crowd: Oh, dear!

Jesus: In a little while, another man came walking down that road - a priest, on his way home from worshipping God at the temple. He saw the dying man, and what do you think he did?

Crowd 2: He helped him!

Crowd 3: He saved him!

Jesus: No! He did not. He took one look at that poor, beaten man, crossed to the other side of the road, and walked away.

Crowd: Oh, my!

Jesus: Wait! Soon another man passed by. He served God at the temple, too. So what do you think this man did when he saw the wounded traveller?

Crowd 2: He ran for help!

Crowd 3: He raised the alarm!

Jesus: No! He did not. Just like the priest, he crossed to the other side of the road and left that poor man to die.

Crowd: Oh, no!

Jesus: Don't worry. For there was one more man who passed by that day. And he was a Samaritan.

Crowd 1: A Samaritan? They're different from us!

Crowd 2: We hate Samaritans!

Crowd 3: And they hate us!

Jesus: So I've heard. But when the Samaritan saw the man, he did not walk away. No. He bandaged his wounds. He loaded him on his donkey. He took him to a nearby inn. And he paid for that man to stay there until he was well.

So tell me, which of these men was a neighbour to the man who had been robbed?

Crowd 1: The third one. The Samaritan.

Jesus: That's right. Because my neighbour is anyone who needs my help. Now you go and help your neighbour, too.