



# STORY TIME

Great Life Lessons from the Parables of Jesus



## LESSON 4 // LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

**Big Idea:** As a wise teacher, Jesus often used stories—called “parables”—to communicate key spiritual truths. In the parable of the “Good Samaritan,” we learn important lessons about being a good neighbor as Jesus’ defines this.

Good neighbors step up when others step away. They sacrifice comfort and convenience, break barriers and build bridges. They also help and heal, and complete what they start in this process.

**Luke 10:29-37 (NLT)** *The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied with an illustration: “A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes and money, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a Jewish priest came along; but when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt deep pity. Kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two pieces of silver and told him to take care of the man. ‘If his bill runs higher than that,’ he said, ‘I’ll pay the difference the next time I am here.’ Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”*

### Start Talking:

Describe a time when someone was a Good Samaritan to you (or someone you know). What impact did that have on you?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Luke 10:30-34.** What are some of the ways you can “step up” to help someone in need, even when (or especially when) others “step away”?

**Read James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18.** Why is it essential for us as followers of Jesus to be willing to sacrifice comfort and convenience at times to help others?

**Read Luke 10:29.** What are some barriers you may need to overcome to be a good neighbor to people God wants you to reach out to?

**Read Matthew 5:9; Colossians 3:12.** What important helping skills can make you a better “neighbor”? What are some practical ways you can grow in these skills?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Take an inventory of people God has put in your life to whom you can be a “good neighbor” (including the most obvious: your family!) and any others you could reach out to. Pray for wisdom about the best ways to be that neighbor by God’s grace and the resources He provides.

Look for opportunities this week to care in tangible ways for those you can touch. Let Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan challenge and encourage you to step up in His name!