

Good Samaritan

Bible Verse

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Bible Story

Luke 10:25-37

Leap of Faith

Jesus teaches me what God's kingdom is like.

Before You Begin

The parable of the good Samaritan had a twist that surprised Jesus' audience. The hero was a Samaritan, a social outcast. While Samaritans worshiped the same God as the Jews did, some of their religious traditions made them unacceptable to their more devout Jewish neighbors. Righteous Jews who heard Jesus' story asked, "How could a Samaritan do anything worthwhile?"

In the story, the priest and the Levite had legitimate reasons for not helping their neighbor. Jewish law considered anyone who touched a dead body to be unclean for seven days. To become clean again required a ritual of purification. Perhaps the priest thought that if he touched the man, he would be unable to perform his priestly duties at the Temple. Obviously he thought that his responsibilities were more important than aiding a man in distress. In addition, the Levite also may have been worried about this scene being a setup for a robbery. The Jericho road was notorious for bandits, and Levites tended to be among the monied crowd.

The Samaritan, however, was not bound by the same strict religious laws as the priest and the Levite. He was free to help the injured man. In this story Jesus expressed concern that people were forgetting the need for compassion for others as they strived for righteousness.

When children enter school, they move into an alien world. This world is peopled with many kinds of people, some quite different from those with whom the child is most familiar. These persons of different cultural, religious, and community backgrounds are now neighbors too. We need to help the children recognize their potential for being a neighbor and for reaching out to others in these circumstances.

Because of the media explosion in today's world, children are no longer bound by geographic borders. Everyone is our neighbor, whether that person lives next door or around the globe. This presents a new set of questions: Who is my neighbor? How can we live so that we can be good neighbors to someone in another part of the world?



Requires
preparation.

The Good Samaritan

Reader 1:

A traveler left Jerusalem
to start this episode.
He set his sights on Jericho
and headed down the road.

Reader 2:

But crouching in the shadows,
hidden behind a wall of stone,
a band of robbers waited
for someone to pass alone.

Reader 3:

"Let's get him!" yelled the leader
as the man looked up in dread.
The robbers stripped and beat him,
and they left him almost dead.

Reader 1:

By chance a priest was going down
the road to Jericho.
He took a look and passed on by
as quick as he could go.

Reader 2:

A Levite also came that way
but never broke his stride.
He saw the beaten traveler
and hugged the other side.

Reader 3:

And then came a Samaritan,
an outcast through and through.
Surprise! He was the one who stopped
to see what he could do.

Reader 1:

With oil and wine he cleaned the wounds,
so moved was he within;
then put the man upon his beast
and took him to the inn.

Reader 2:

All night he nursed the injured man;
then, with the morning sun,
he asked the keeper of the inn
to do as he had done.

Reader 3:

"If you take good care of him,
I'll come this way again
and pay you for your services,"
said the Samaritan.

Adapted from "Good Samaritan Rap" by James Ritchie (*Bible Zone 4, Younger Elementary*, p. 134)



Did you know?

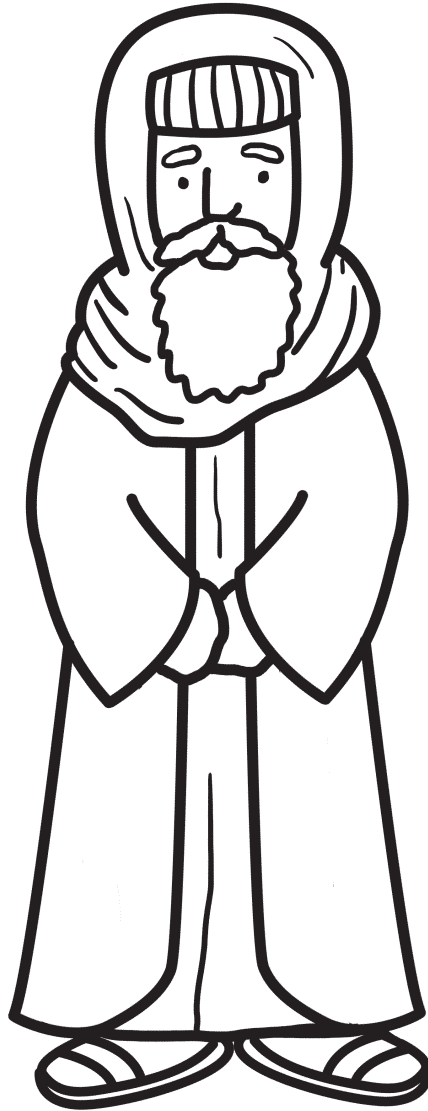
A Samaritan was a person who lived in Samaria. Samaria is located on the Jordan River between Judea and Galilee. The Samaritans practiced a different form of Judaism, and this caused problems with the rest of the Jews. For example, Samaritans considered only the first five books of the Old Testament as holy, excluding all of the other books (such as Psalms and those of the prophets).



Parable Puppets



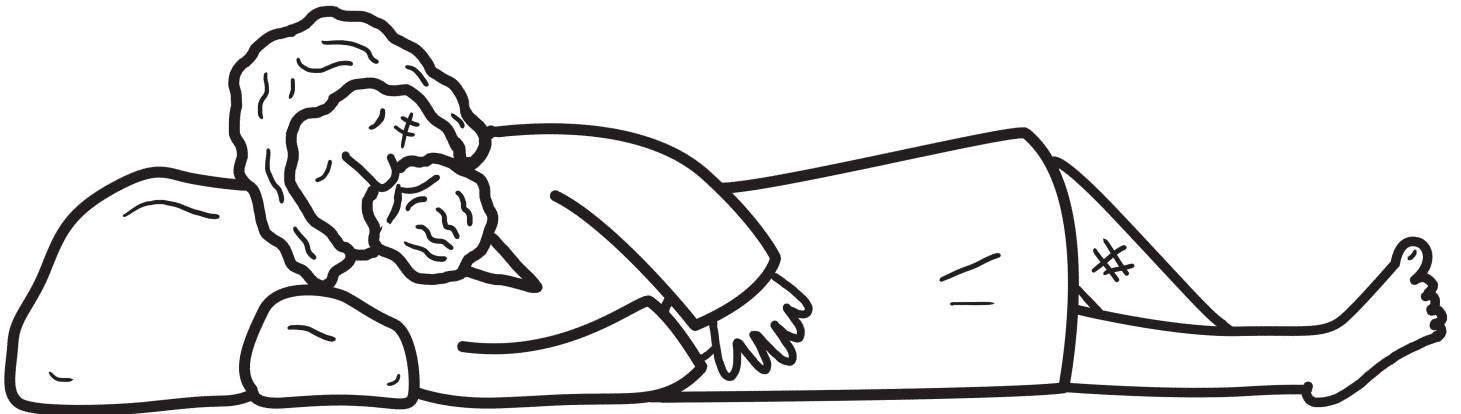
priest



Levite



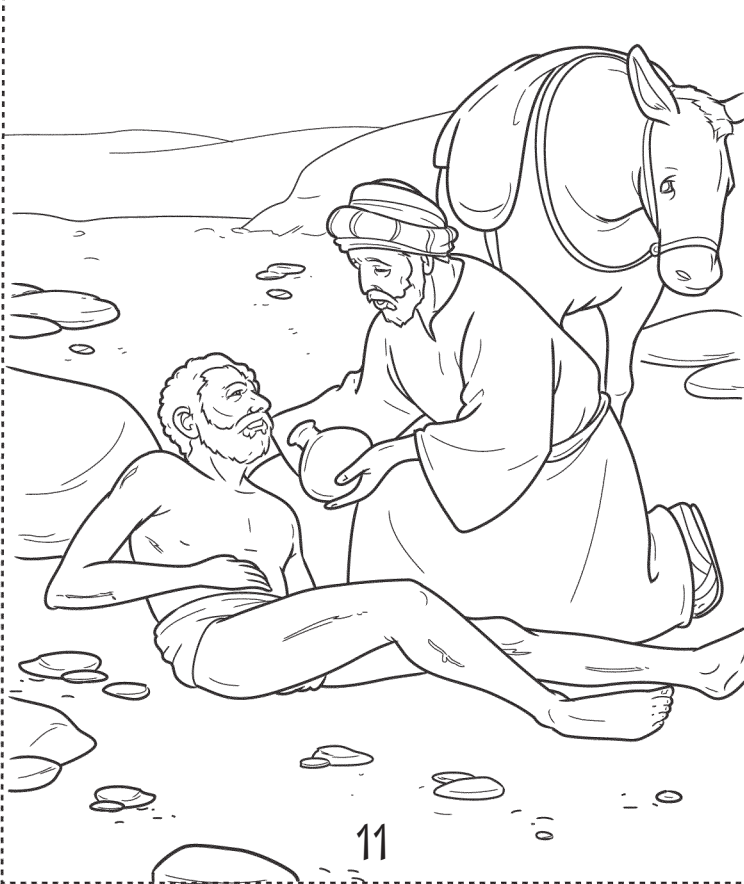
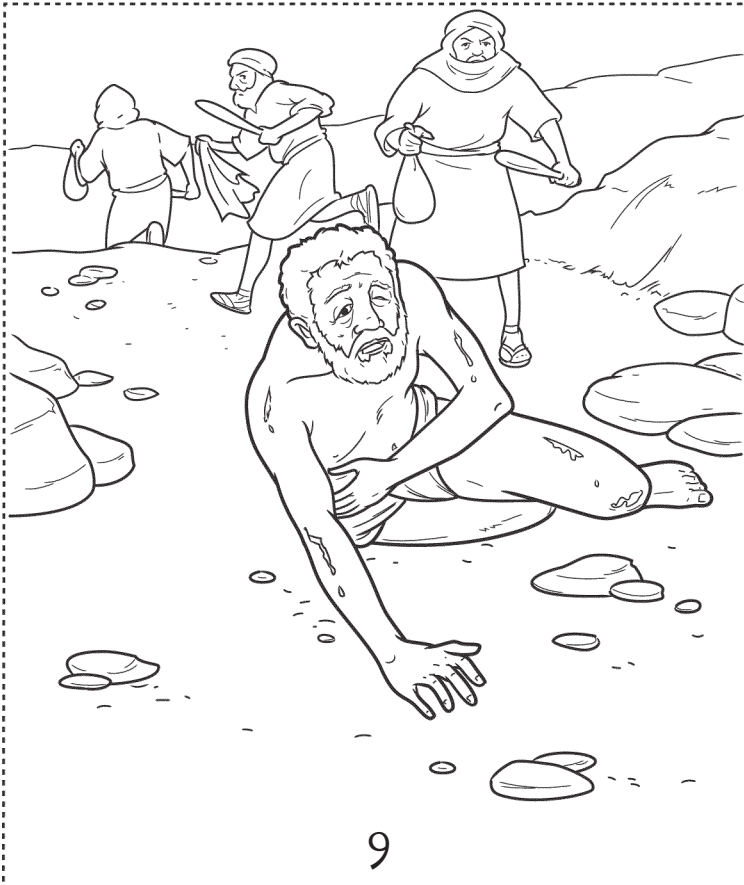
Samaritan



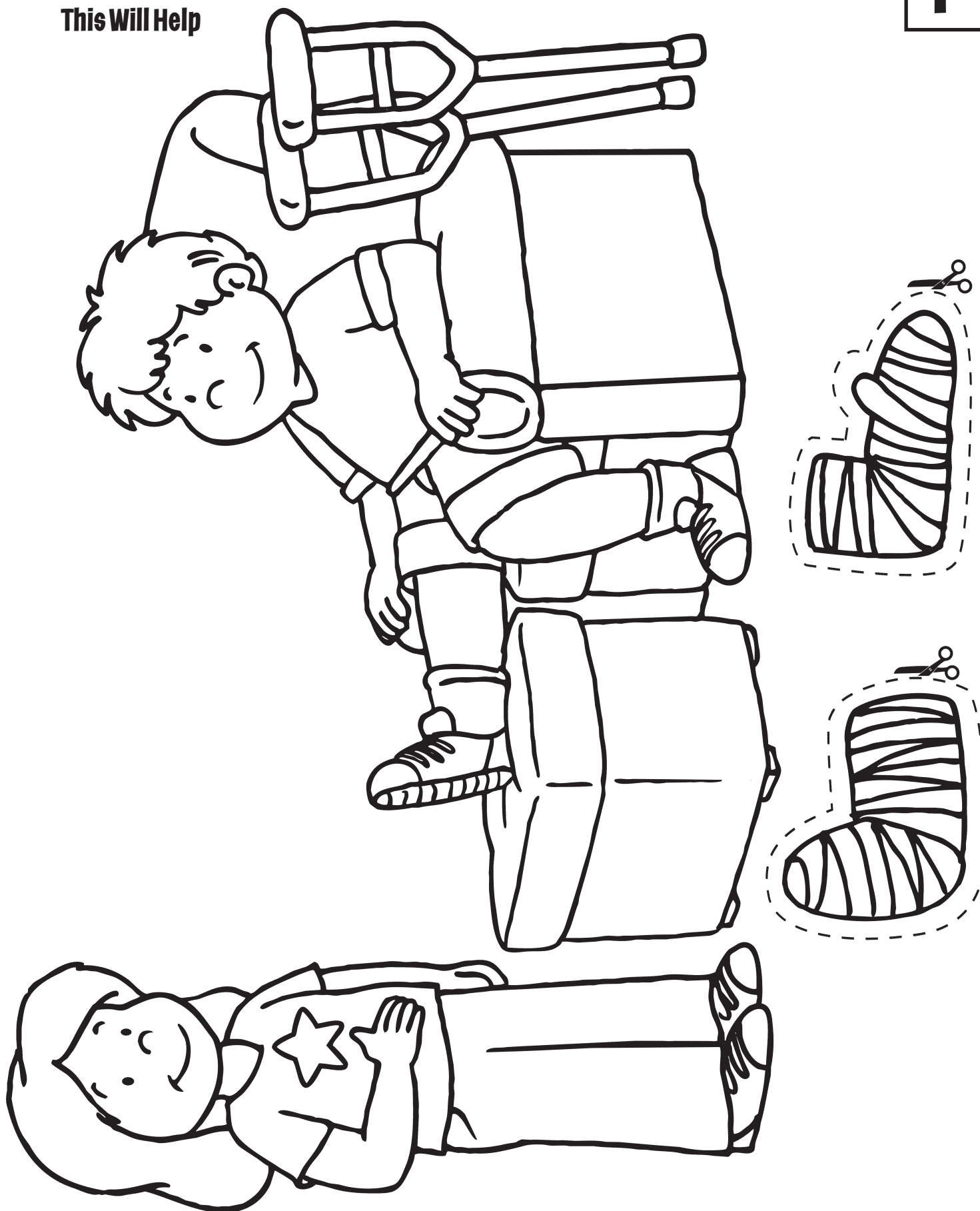
THE GOOD SAMARITAN

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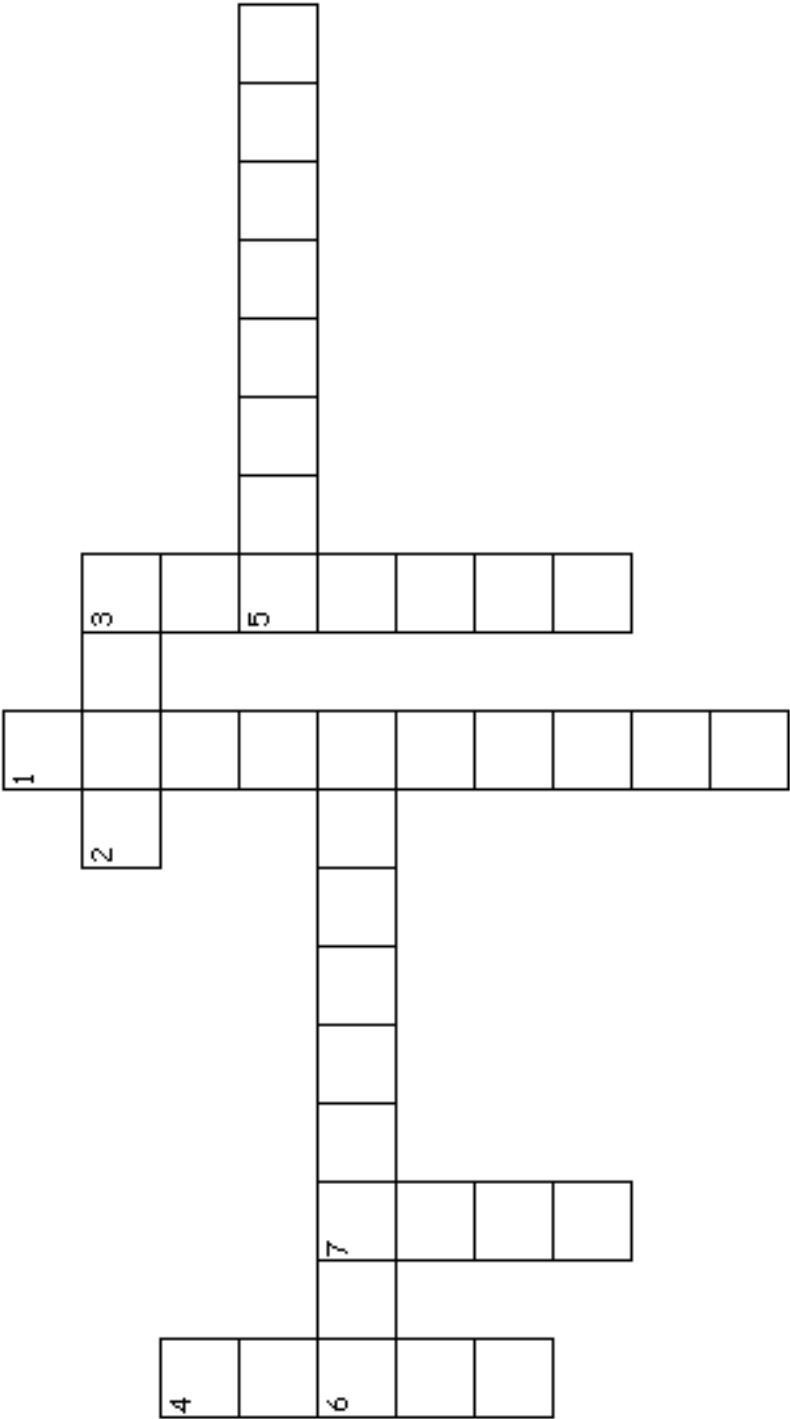
This Will Help



For Nonreaders and Beginning Readers

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Health Kit Crossword



ACROSS

- 2. I use this to straighten my hair.
- 5. This helps keep my fingernails trimmed.
- 6. I use this to scrub myself.

DOWN

- 1. To keep from getting cavities, I use this twice a day.
- 3. When I scrape my knee, this covers the cut to keep it clean.
- 4. I use this to dry off after a bath.
- 7. When I use this to wash my face and body, I smell fresh and clean.

You must love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your
being, with all your strength, and
with all your mind, and love your
neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27, CEB





love



heart



being



strength



mind