

February 17, 2013

Lesson 26: Parable of the Good Samaritan

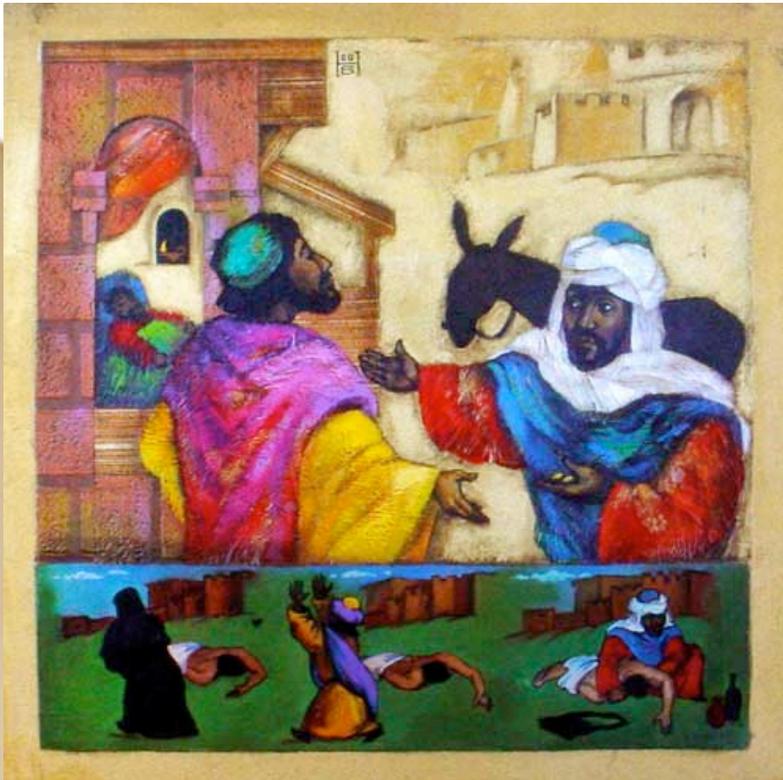
Luke 10:25-42

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road;

and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

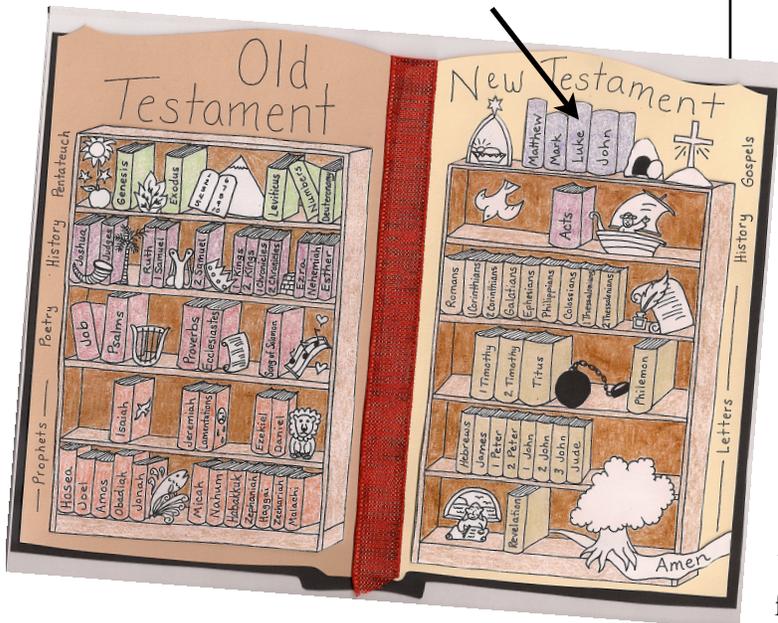


"The Good Samaritan" by Kazakhstan Artist Nelly Bube

February 17, 2013

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-42



The Big Story Truth: God's desire is that we love one another without exception. All people are loved by God. We are called to love all people too.

About this Scripture Passage: Our Scripture passage for this morning has several parts to it. The first part comes as Jesus is tested by a lawyer. It was a test to try to trap Jesus. The lawyer asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus has him answer his own question according to what he knows from Jewish law. But the lawyer isn't satisfied with the answer. So he pushes for a definition. He says, "And who is my neighbor?" Rather than answering directly, Jesus tells a story. It is the story that we will focus the majority of our Sunday School lesson on this morning.

This kind of story Jesus tells is called a parable. Parables were stories that used common, every day scenes and images but had a surprising twist to them. The parable of the Good Samaritan is one that is very familiar. But even this story has a twist that's important not to miss. In the story, a man is wounded and left for dead. Those who pass by the man (the Levite and the priest) were those who could have been expected to stop and help. But they did not.

In sharp contrast is the Samaritan. The Samaritan could not have been expected to stop and help. There was a long standing social gulf between Jews and Samaritans. Samaritans were, as an ethnic group, considered unclean. They were not to be talked to or associated with. There was even an occasion just a chapter earlier in the Gospel of Luke where Samaritans had rejected Jesus (see Luke 9:51-56).

For Your Reflection:

1. *Do you remember when you first heard the parable of the Good Samaritan? How old were you? What was important to you about this story then?*
2. *Reading this story this week, is there something new that has stuck out to you that you didn't notice before?*

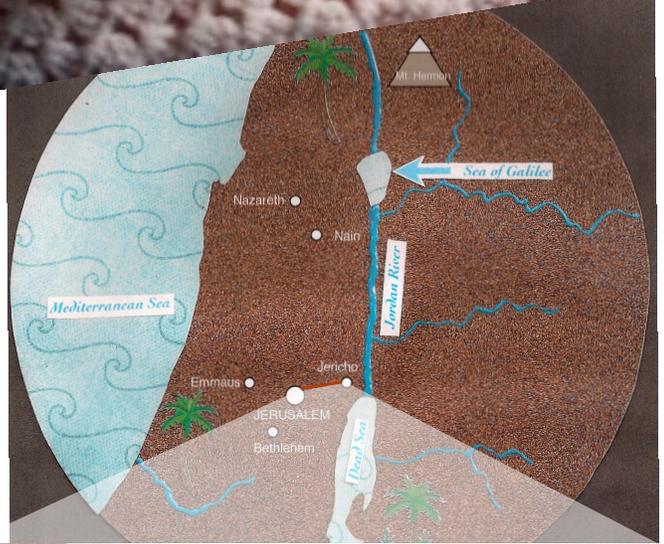
Making the Connection: This story is all about the love of God. One way to read this story is to realize that if we say we love God, but ignore the needs of those around us, that isn't loving the way that God intends. Young children understand this. Young children react quickly and easily when they see someone who is hurt or sad. Somewhere along the line, though, our compassions change. There comes a time in our lives when we see not only the hurt person, but we see all the barriers between us. We make the decision not to stop and help someone stranded by the side of the road because we don't recognize the plates and are traveling alone at night. Stopping could be dangerous. We decide not to intervene when someone is being treated unfairly because we might be seen as being a tattle tail or not a good sport. There are barriers that get in the way of our "neighborliness." One point of this story though, and the point to emphasize with our kids, is that there are no barriers to God's love.

Where in the World Are We? Jesus is on his way toward Jerusalem. In Jerusalem is where Jesus will ultimately die on the cross. Ironically, the man in the story is walking the same road Jesus eventually will from Jerusalem to Jericho when he is beaten up and left for dead. In Jerusalem, Jesus soon too will be abandoned and beaten, left not partially dead but completely dead. Which raises the question, what if Jesus was the man by the side of the road? What would love look like then?

Great Big Word:

NEIGHBOR

Someone who cares for people and loves them.



The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was notoriously dangerous. It was full of rocks and valleys that made great hiding places for robbers and bandits. Imagine a road like the one in this picture.

Preschool

Materials Needed:

Paper heart
Spark Story Bible
TV/DVD player
“Silly Little Thing Called Love” Veggie Tales DVD
Box of Band-aids
Red stamp pad or finger paint (washable!)
Wet paper towels or wipes for clean up
Piece of paper with a cross printed on it
Permanent marker

Before the Children Arrive:

Set up the DVD so that it is ready to go. Hang the piece of paper with the cross drawn on it somewhere on the wall easily accessible at kids’ height. Place the heart on the center of the table or floor so that the children will see it when they enter the room.

Experiencing the Story:

Welcome children as they enter the room. As they notice the heart on the center of the table, ask kids what this heart makes them think of. (So close to Valentine’s day they may mention that.) They might also say “love.” Tell the kids that today the Bible story that we are talking about has to do with love and who Jesus says we should love.

Read “The Good Samaritan” in the Spark Story Bible, pages 360-365.

Then tell the kids that you have a silly version of the story to show them! Show “The Story of Fliber-o-loo” DVD clip. (This section of the DVD is approx. 10 minutes long. If you start playing the DVD from the beginning there is a 4 minute section of kids talking about what it means to be a neighbor before Fliber-o-loo starts.)

Activity:

Ask the kids how they think the cucumber in the story felt when the mayor and the doctor didn't help him? How did he feel when the little boy stopped to help? In the story that Jesus told, he said that it was the person who stopped to help who was showing love. We are supposed to help and show love even to people who are different from us.

There are lots of things that we can do to love and care for the people around us too. What are some that the kids can think of?

Today, our activity is going to be to make some band-aids to help show our love for those who are hurting. (Ask kids how many of them have sometimes run to help get a band-aid for someone.) Show the kids how they can put two thumb prints together to make a heart. Help the kids make thumb print hearts on the band-aids.

As a closing, pray a band-aid prayer. Give each of the kids a band-aid and have them write (or help them write) the name of someone that they know needs prayers for healing on the bandaid. Pray that God would heal that person and help us know how to show our love to them. Then stick the bandaids (with the names) up on the cross. Send each child home with a bandaid stuck to their shirt as a reminder to show love by caring for others this week!

Additional Activity: "Who Do You Love?" Game¹

Play a variation of Duck, Duck Goose with the kids. Instead of having the child going around the circle saying "Duck" and "Goose" have them walk around patting heads in silence until they stop and say "Who do you love?" When chosen, the child who is picked says the name of another child in the circle. Those two children then have to quickly trade places. The person who had tapped heads tries to get to the seat of the child named before the tapped one can get there. If the child chooses to, rather than saying "Who do you love?" he/she can say "Who loves us all?" In response, everyone says "God does!" and everyone stands up, runs in a circle, gives a big group hug, and sits back down. After the game is over, remind the kids that today's Bible story teaches us that God loves us all and wants us all to love each other too!

¹ The basic idea for this game comes from [The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry](#)





Early Elementary

Materials Needed:

Heart shape cut out (1 per child)

Spark Story Bible

Bible times costumes and/or alternative activity supplies (see below)

Before the Children Arrive:

Spread the heart shaped cut outs on the table where you will be meeting.

Experiencing the Story:

As the kids enter the room, encourage them to take a heart shape and to write (or draw) on it something that someone has done for them that let them know they are loved. (For example, a parent fixing a favorite meal for dinner might let the child know they are loved, etc.) They may put more than one idea on the heart if they would like to.

Tell the kids that in the story we are going to be learning about today in Sunday School and church, a man was asking Jesus questions about love. One of the questions he had was about who we are supposed to show love to. To answer, Jesus told the man a story. Ask the kids to think about who is showing love in this story.

Read “The Good Samaritan” from the Spark Story Bible (pages 360-365).

When you are finished reading, ask the kids if they heard in the story who it was that showed love. Jesus said that it was the person to stop to help the hurt man who had showed love. We are meant to love and care for others too.

Activity:

Today’s activity is a re-telling of the Good Samaritan story. Using the Spark Story Bible as your script, cast your class into the roles of the traveling man, the ruffians who mugged him, the two holy people who passed by, and the Samaritan who stopped to help. If you have more people you could also have an innkeeper, multiple robbers, etc. If you have fewer kids you can have one child be the traveler and another one play all the other parts just disappearing

momentarily between roles and/or slipping on a piece of fabric for a different “costume.” Use the time you have in Sunday School to practice and then, if you’re up for it, have your class tell the Gospel story in church today! (If you have a chance, give the pastor or lector a heads up to let them know for sure that your class will plan to take over the Gospel reading!)

Alternative ways of doing this activity would be:

- 1) If the kids are nervous about sharing their performance in front of the church, you could video record them acting it out. If you do so on an iPhone, at rural Akron it could be shown during the service on the t.v.
- 2) The kids could make puppets to act out the story and do the retelling as a puppet show.

Before you go:

Have the kids tape the hearts from the opening of class into their Smash books. Give them a second heart cut-out. On that heart have them draw how they can show love to someone else this week.

Upper Elementary/Middle School

Materials Needed:

Candy dish

Heart candies

Spark NRSV Bibles for each student

Heart stickers

2 Coordinating pieces of fleece fabric (approx. 3 yards of each)

Ruler or Yard Stick

Pencil

Scissors (several pairs)

Optional: Camera/phone with camera capabilities

Before the Students Arrive:

Put the heart candies out in a dish on the table. Prepare the material so that the two pieces of fabric are the same size and ready to go.

Experiencing the Story:

As students arrive allow them to snack on the conversation hearts. Ask about their Valentine's Day. Did they do anything special? Start a conversation with the kids about different kinds of love. Often we hear a lot in media about romantic love, but love is also the love of family members for one another (ex. a parents love for their child). There is also the kind of love that is the love you have for a friend. Today the Bible story that we are talking about is a love story... but not romantic love. It's a story about the kind of love that God desires us to have for each and every person, no matter who they are and how they are alike or different from us.

Read Luke 10:25-42 in the Spark NRSV Bibles. Who showed love in this story? What did "love" look like? This story is called a "parable" because it has a surprising twist to it. Tell the kids that Samaritans and Jews normally didn't get along. The Samaritan wouldn't have been expected to stop and help... but he was the one who did. What are some ways that we might be called to love someone that we may not always like or get along with? For kids this age, you may choose to steer the conversation toward how they respond when they see someone being bullied. Do they walk by or do they help? Give the kids heart

stickers to put in the margins of their Bibles around this story as a reminder of the call to love our neighbors/classmates/friends/enemies as the Good Samaritan cared for the man along the road.

Activity:

There is one way that we as a class today can show love to someone that we have never met who has been bullied and has been left without a place to stay. There is an organization called CSADV (Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence) who provides shelter and basic necessities for women and children who have had to leave their homes because they aren't safe there. Often times they have to leave quickly and they aren't able to take many things with them. One of the things that is especially helpful for the kids is to have a blanket given to them that they can use for sleeping and to comfort them and help them heal from the abuse they've seen or experienced. Today, we can take a few minutes of our class time to make a blanket for a child who comes to the shelter.

NOTE: Some of the kids may have made these fleece blankets before. If they have, use their expertise in helping the others figure out how to make the blanket.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Lay the two pieces of fabric out on a large table or on a floor space. The back side of the blanket should be against the floor. The top side of blanket should be laid on top, with the right side facing up.
- 2) Measure a 4 inch square on each corner of the blanket and cut each one out.
- 3) Make cuts about every 1 inch along each side of the blanket. These cuts should be about 4 inches deep.
- 4) Take the two pieces of each fringe and tie them together. Double knot to make it even more secure.
- 5) When you are done, snap a picture of the blanket on your camera or phone. Print off copies for the kids next week to glue into their Smash books as a reminder of the way they showed love.