

3rd-6th

Living the Word

*Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3*



Teacher's Guide

Spring Unit

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Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story, 3rd-6th (Narrative Lectionary, Year 3)

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Lesson #3-23

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Luke 10:25-42

3rd-6th

Key Verse:

[The lawyer] said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:37

The Point:

God’s kingdom appears in acts of mercy and love.

Making Connections:

Journey to the Cross

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Culture & Customs

Spiritual Practice:

Service



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Into the Story

Mercy

What is mercy?

5 min.

- † Dictionary
- † White board or mural paper
- † Marker

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Culture and Customs

Explore culture and customs in the story.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-23.A
- † Scissors

Learning the Story

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Act out the story.

20 min.

- † Bible
- † Optional: props or costumes

Living the Story

Doing Likewise

Practice service as mercy and discipleship.

15 min.

- † White board or mural paper
- † Marker

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Always Helping

Make something to help others.

10 min.

- † Sandwich-sized plastic bags
- † Adhesive bandages
- † Sterile gauze pads
- † Individually-packaged antiseptic wipes
- † Index cards
- † Pens
- † Bible
- † Optional: permanent markers

Listening

How do we listen to others?

10 min.

- † None

Bandage Relay

Play a game to remember the story.

10 min.

- † Rolls of bandages

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

10 min.

- † Mural paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Tape

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

Last week, we explored the story of the transfiguration in Luke 9:28-45. In that story, God's glory is revealed through Jesus' transfiguration on the mountaintop, witnessed by some of the disciples. In the verses between last week's and this week's readings, God's glory is revealed through the casting out of demons and healing, done by both Jesus and those whom Jesus sends out. Today, we begin Lent and our journey to the cross. We will explore other ways in which God's kingdom is revealed in the world.

Story Summary:

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Today's lesson includes two stories. The first is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. A lawyer questions Jesus, asking him who is considered a neighbor. Jesus responds by telling a parable about a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. The man is hurt by robbers who leave him on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite, supposedly godly people, walk by and do not stop to help him. However, a Samaritan, whose people were hated by the Jews, stops and cares for the man, taking him to an inn and paying for his stay. When Jesus asks which person helped the hurt man, the lawyer responds by answering, "the Samaritan." Jesus tells the lawyer that we should "go and do likewise" to others.

Then, the story transitions to the story of Martha and Mary. Jesus enters Mary and Martha's house. Mary sits at Jesus' feet, learning from him as he is teaching while Martha is working hard. When she complains that Mary is not helping her, he responds that Martha is worried about too many things. Instead, Martha should focus on one thing: being a disciple of Jesus!

It is important to note that Jesus is not criticizing Martha's work of providing hospitality to himself

and his disciples. Instead, he urges her to not be worried and distracted, and indirectly invites her to copy Mary and learn from him as a disciple.

The Point

God's kingdom appears in acts of mercy and love. Our stories today remind us that God's kingdom appears through compassion, mercy, and kindness. Sometimes showing love like this can be difficult, especially when we are called to love someone who is different from us. However, imitating the love Jesus teaches us can break down the barriers that divide us from God and from one another.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Culture & Customs

Both culture and customs are illustrated in today's stories. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, it is significant that the man who shows mercy and kindness is a Samaritan. Because of cultural differences, the Samaritans and the Jewish people did not get along. In the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus enters the home of two women who show him the custom of hospitality. Mary also sits at the feet of Jesus, a practice traditionally done when a rabbi is teaching. These customs are ground-breaking in that Mary and Martha are taking on traditionally male roles, breaking traditional boundaries through their acts of love and discipleship.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Serving God and serving others are ways in which we can engage in the boundary-breaking acts of mercy and discipleship. In today's story, the good Samaritan serves the hurt man by helping him heal. Then, Mary and Martha serve Jesus, though in different ways: Martha by providing hospitality, and Mary by listening to him teach.



Lesson Plan



Into the Story (5 minutes)

Mercy

What is mercy?

You will need:

- † Dictionary
- † White board or mural paper
- † Marker

During class:

1. Today we are going to talk about what it means to show mercy to others. What does it mean to show mercy to others? *[Answers will vary.]*
2. Read a definition of the word “mercy” from a dictionary.
3. **When we show someone mercy, we show them kindness and compassion. Typically we show mercy to someone who we might think is an enemy. Can you think of a time in your life when someone showed you mercy? What happened?**
4. Invite students to share their stories about when someone showed them mercy. As students share experiences, write them on the white board or mural paper. Provide an example for students by sharing a story about a time when someone showed you mercy.
5. **There are lots of times when people show us mercy. In today’s story, there are characters who show mercy to other people, too.**

Bible Nuts & Bolts (10 minutes)

Culture and Customs

Explore culture and customs in the story.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-23.A
- † Scissors

Before class:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #3-23.A.
2. Cut apart the game cards.
3. Optional: print a second copy of Activity Sheet #3-23.A to use as an answer key.

During class:

1. **Culture and customs are an important part of today's story. Understanding some of the people and traditions in today's story will help us hear the story better! Let's learn about some of the people, customs, and traditions in today's story.**
2. Shuffle the two sets of game cards from Activity Sheet #3-23.A separately.
3. Place all of the "People, Places, and Things" cards face-up in one line on a table, and place all of the "Definition" cards in another.
4. Invite students to match the "People, Places, and Things" cards with their matching "Definition" cards.
5. After students have matched the cards, go through the cards and see if they are matched to the correct definitions.
6. **Which people, places, or things did you not know before today?** *[Answers will vary.]*
7. **Do you think it is easy or hard to understand a person who comes from a different culture? Why?**
8. **We can understand other people better if we learn about their culture, so it is an important thing to do.**



Learning the Story (20 minutes)

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Act out the story.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Optional: props or costumes

Before class:

1. Read through the story in Luke 10:25-42.
2. Gather props or costumes for students to use while acting out the story, if you wish to use them.

During class:

1. Split students into two groups. Give each group a Bible. (Note that the story of Martha and Mary requires fewer actors. You may wish to make one group slightly larger than the other.)
2. Assign each group one of the following stories: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), or Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42).
3. Invite groups to work together to create a skit that retells the story. Students should each be assigned a part. If groups are small, students may need to take on multiple parts.
4. Give groups time to work on their skits. If you are using props or costumes, make them available.
5. After about ten minutes, invite the class to gather back together. Ask each group to perform their skit.
6. After each group has performed, ask the following questions:
 - a. **In each of the two stories, which characters showed that they loved God and loved others? How?** [*The Samaritan showed mercy to the hurt man; Mary showed that she was a follower of Jesus by sitting and listening to him teach.*]
 - b. **How did the Samaritan show mercy?** [*By taking care of the man and helping him heal; by paying for him to stay at the inn.*]
 - c. **Is it easy or hard to show love and mercy to others and follow Jesus? Why?** [*Answers will vary.*]



Living the Story (15 minutes)

Doing Likewise

Practice service as mercy and discipleship.

You will need:

- † White board or mural paper
- † Markers

During class:

1. **In today's story, we see examples of how we can love God and love other people. One way we can do this is by serving them. Let's think about some ways we can show compassion and mercy to God and to others through service!**
2. Ask students to think of one thing they can do to love God or love other people. (Examples might include: worship, helping someone with their homework, cleaning the house for a parent, sharing a lunch, etc.)
3. Invite one student forward to the white board or mural paper. Ask the student to begin drawing their idea. The rest of the class should guess what the idea is.
4. Once the class guesses the correct answer, invite another student forward to draw. The class must guess what the new student's idea is.
5. Continue inviting students forward to draw. Play the game either until everyone has been given a chance to draw, or you run out of time.

Additional Activities

Always Helping (10 minutes)

Make something to help others.

You will need:

- † Sandwich-sized plastic bags
- † Adhesive bandages
- † Sterile gauze pads
- † Individually-packaged antiseptic wipes
- † Bible
- † Index cards
- † Pens
- † Optional: permanent markers

Before class:

1. Make a sample first aid kit to show the class.

During class:

1. **Today we have talked about ways we can show others love and mercy by serving them. Let's make something that we can use to serve others.**
2. Give each student a sandwich-sized bag.
3. If desired, use permanent markers to decorate the bag.
4. Invite students to make a mini first-aid kit by filling the bag with several adhesive bandages, sterile gauze pads, and antiseptic wipes.
5. Help students find Luke 10:26-27 in a Bible. Instruct them to write the verse on an index card, and place the card in the bag.
6. **Take your first aid kit home, and carry it with you wherever you go. You might need to use it to help another person sometime!**



Listening (10 minutes)

How do we listen to others?

You will need:

- † Nothing

During class:

1. **In today's story, Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to him teach. By doing this, she shows that she loves Jesus. Sometimes we show others that we love them by listening to them, too. Let's practice our listening skills!**
2. Invite each student to find a partner. Each pair should sit facing each other.
3. Ask one partner to share a story about something interesting that happened to them during the week. The other partner should listen carefully to what is being said.
4. After about 30 seconds, the partner telling the story should stop talking. Then, the listener should repeat back a summary of the story to their partner.
5. Once listeners have retold the story, ask partners to switch. The partner who was first the listener must tell their own story, while the other person in the pair listens.
6. If you have time, ask students to find a new partner. Complete the listening exercise again.

Bandage Relay (10 minutes)

Play a game to remember the story.

You will need:

- † Rolls of bandages

Before class:

1. Find a location with enough room to play this game.

During class:

1. **Today we heard the story of the Good Samaritan. How does the Samaritan help the hurt man in the story?** *[He helps him heal by bandaging his wounds and taking him to an inn.]* **Let's play a game to remember the Samaritan and the story.**
2. Split the class into two teams. Have each team line up in a single-file line at one end of the room.
3. Ask for one volunteer from each team to stand on the opposite side of the room. Place a pile with rolls of bandages next to each volunteer.
4. At your signal, the first person in line must run to the opposite side of the room and wrap the volunteer with the rolled bandage for ten seconds. After ten seconds, call "time." The person must run back to their team and tag the next person in line.
5. Once tagged, the next person must run to the volunteer and wrap them with the bandage for ten seconds. Then, they must run back to their team and tag the next person in line.
6. Play continues until each person on the team has rolled the bandage onto their teammate. The first team whose members all wrap their volunteer wins.
7. If you have time, play the game again, switching volunteers.



Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.



Sending the Story (10 minutes)

Journey to the Cross

You will need:

- † Mural paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Tape

Before class:

1. Set up mural paper in a location where the whole class can access it. If possible, tape the banner of paper to the wall. Be prepared to keep this paper throughout Lent.

During class:

1. Invite students to gather around the mural paper.
2. **Today we begin a journey to the cross. In the next few weeks, we will hear stories that will help us prepare to hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion. While we take this journey together, we are going to create our own path to the cross.**
3. Ask students to think of one thing that they learned from today's story. Ask them to either write or draw this one thing on the paper.
4. Invite a few volunteers to share what they learned, as students are comfortable doing so.
5. **We learned about how we can show mercy to others, and how we can love God. When we show that we love others and love God, special things happen!**
6. Close with a prayer. Pray the following, or use your own prayer:

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for showing us kindness and mercy. Help us show kindness and mercy to other people, and help us love you more every day. Amen.

Culture and Customs

Explore culture and customs in the story.

<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Samaritans	<u>Definition</u> People who lived near Judea. They had different customs that made it difficult for them to get along with the Jewish people.
<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Levite	<u>Definition</u> A religious leader in Jewish culture. They helped with leading worship.
<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Jericho	<u>Definition</u> A city, located near the Jordan River.
<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Rabbi	<u>Definition</u> A Jewish scholar or teacher; someone who interprets Jewish laws.
<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Hospitality	<u>Definition</u> The practice of welcoming another person. In the time of Jesus, this included the head of the house welcoming someone into the home, and providing them with food and entertainment.
<u>People, Places, and Things</u> Disciples	<u>Definition</u> Primarily male students who followed and learned from a specific rabbi. They often learned by sitting at the rabbi's feet.

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Luke 10:25-42

I Learned:



The Story @ Home

3rd - 6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-23
Luke 10:25-42

Last Week

Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain. Suddenly, he becomes dazzlingly white and Moses and Elijah appear next to him. God declares that Jesus is God's Son, and the disciples should listen to him (Luke 9:28-45).

This Week

Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which a person cares for his enemy. Then, Jesus visits sisters Mary and Martha and encourages Martha to rest from her work, sit, and listen to him (Luke 10:25-42).

The Point

God's kingdom appears in acts of mercy and love.

Story Summary

The Samaritan, Martha and Mary

Jesus tells a parable to a lawyer about a man who is seriously hurt by robbers. Two holy people walk by and do not help him. However, a Samaritan, an enemy, stops and cares for the man. When Jesus asks who did the right thing, the lawyer answers, "the Samaritan." Jesus tells the lawyer to follow the Samaritan's example. Jesus then visits Martha and Mary's house. Mary listens to Jesus while Martha is working hard. When Martha complains that Mary is not helping her, he responds that Martha is worried about too many things. Instead, Martha should focus on one thing: being a disciple of Jesus!

Next Week

Jesus tells people that bad things do not happen because of people's sins, but he calls the people to change their ways. Then, he tells some Pharisees that he is going to Jerusalem be killed (Luke 13:1-9, 31-35).

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Culture & Customs

It is important to understand the different culture of the people in the Bible. In the parable, the man who shows kindness is a Samaritan. The Samaritans and the Jewish people hated each other, so this would have been shocking. In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha shows Jesus traditional hospitality. But Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a practice traditionally done only by male disciples. In both stories, Jesus says things that would be surprising to his audience.

Practice: Service

Serving God and serving others are ways in which we can engage in the boundary-breaking acts of mercy and discipleship. This week, engage in an act of service as a family. Volunteer some time together, or find ways to serve one another in your own home. If possible, use this opportunity to serve a person with whom your family does not normally connect.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Do you think it was easy or hard for the Samaritan to show mercy? Why?
- ✚ Why do you think the Samaritan decided to help the hurt man?
- ✚ Why do you think Mary decided to listen to Jesus instead of helping Martha?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Luke 10:25-42

Today's two stories remind us that we can share God's kingdom through mercy and discipleship. Discuss the following question: If you could be any character in the story, which would you be? Why?

Monday—Read Leviticus 19:13-18

This passage instructs us to love and forgive others. Share about a time when you needed to forgive another person. Is it easy or hard to forgive others? Why?

Tuesday—Read Romans 13:8-10

We are called to love one another just like we would love ourselves. Surprise another member of your family by doing a chore, sharing with them, or giving them something.

Wednesday—Read Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches us how to pray for ourselves and for others. Sit in a circle and light a candle. Ask each person to pray aloud for one person who needs comfort or love.

Thursday—Read Matthew 6:5-13

This passage reminds us that sometimes it is okay for us to be alone with God. Invite each member of your family to find a special place to sit. Using their own Bible (or copy of the passage), read the passage privately and thank God for listening to our prayers.

Friday—Read Luke 12:22-34

Jesus tells us that we should not worry; God loves us and will provide for us. Take a walk and ask each person to find a stone. Hold the stone in your hand and thank God for all the good things we are given.

Saturday—Read Philippians 4:4-9

Paul brings peace and hope to the Philippians by reminding them that we should rejoice in the Lord. Sing a favorite hymn or worship song as a family. Then, end your devotion time by sharing God's peace with each other!