

## LESSON 13: PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Full Lesson Preschool

 Luke 10:25-37

11/17/2019

### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 10:25-37
- In This Passage: A man asks Jesus who his neighbor is. Jesus tells a story to show that Jesus-followers care for their neighbors, whether or not those people live near us. In Jesus' story, a man is hurt on the side of the road. Two people walk by without taking action. A third man helps the injured man and gets him to an inn where he can receive care.
- Bible Point: Jesus-followers care for others.
- Summary Verse: "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" (1 John 3:18).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus-followers care for others.* Kids have an amazing opportunity to show their friends how loving and caring Jesus is. This lesson will help your kids understand that the heart of Jesus is showing love and care to others.
- Think About: When has someone cared for you? What did it mean to you? What did it show you about Jesus?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for kids to notice others' needs and respond with Jesus' love and care.

#### Quick Tip

- For kids who come to church regularly, Bible stories can seem stale. Though the stories are full of truth, it's easy for kids to zone out and get bored when they read or listen to a familiar Bible story. Dig In mixes it up—approaching the Bible in a fresh, creative, and active way.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

#### Supplies

- “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Give It Away” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Nothing Could Keep Me From You” music video (watch or download [here](#))



### CRAFT

Preschoolers make huggable bears to give away.

#### Supplies

- brown paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- “Share-Bear” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- self-sticking googly eyes (½ inch or bigger) (2 per child)
- crayons
- tape
- glue sticks
- newspaper or colored tissue paper
- small prizes such as stickers, preschool-safe bouncy balls, or other fun toys

#### Easy Prep

- Cut each “Share-Bear” handout in half so that each child has a bear front and a bear back.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers practice helping and caring for others.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- brown paper lunch bag
- paper
- adhesive bandages (2 per child)
- large, old T-shirt
- stuffed animals, dolls, or toy figures (1 per child)

#### Easy Prep

- Cut paper into slips that are about the size of the adhesive bandages. Cut a couple of slips for each child.
- Remove the outer packaging from the bandages.
- Place all the paper slips and half of the bandages in the brown paper lunch bag. (Set aside the bandages that you didn't put in the bag.) Shake the bag to evenly distribute the paper slips and bandages.



### TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Preschoolers watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

## Supplies

- “The Good Samaritan” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



## PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- tissue
- bandage
- ice pack
- water bottle

### Easy Prep

- Ask an adult or teen helper ahead of time to “take Theo home,” as described in the Leader’s last line of the script.



## OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers play gently with bubbles.

### Supplies

- water (1½ cups)
- dish soap (½ cup)
- corn syrup (at least ½ cup)
- medium bowl
- spoon
- bubble wand or chenille wire
- trash bags

### Easy Prep

- If you don’t have a bubble wand, make one with a chenille wire by making a loop with the end of the chenille wire and twisting the end around the straight part.
- Mix water, dish soap, and corn syrup in a bowl. Use the bubble wand to test how strong your bubbles are. You’ll want them to be strong enough that you can catch one and hold it for 20 seconds to a minute. (Prepare this just before class to ensure the corn syrup retains its stickiness that keeps the bubbles from popping easily.)
- Cut open trash bags to create a tarp for protecting carpet or upholstery.



## DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers do various things that show care for others.

### Supplies

- Bible
- classroom toys



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers race with cotton balls.

### Supplies

- cotton balls (about 5 per child)
- paper bowls (1 for about every 3 children)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Place paper bowls on the floor along one side of the room, spaced evenly.
- Spread out the cotton balls along the opposite wall.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Hot Potato.

### Supplies

- stuffed animal\* (1 for every 10 kids)

- upbeat music
- music player



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing songs of prayer.



## TAKE-HOME

Preschoolers receive a take-home page about the lesson.

### Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child)  
(download [here](#))

### Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## OPENING

### Welcome

---

[5 min]

### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers shout “Happy birthday!”

Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn how Jesus asks us to care for others. The Bible says that Jesus-followers care for others. That means when we’re friends with Jesus, we take care of each other.**

### Share

Say: **When Jesus talked about caring for others, he said, “Love your neighbor.” So let’s think about who *our* neighbors are.**

Tell about someone who’s a neighbor to *you*.

In leader-led small groups, have kids each share about a neighbor. If they need help, ask them about the people who live near them.

After groups have discussed, have the adult or teen helper in each group share something that group talked about.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Thanks for sharing about your neighbors. Today we’ll learn that Jesus-followers care for others—no matter *where* they live! We’ll dig into the Bible to find out about that. The Bible is a really special book. God can talk to us through the Bible. God is here right now, ready to talk to *you*!**

Pray, thanking Jesus that his followers care for others.



## MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

### O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

---

#### Supplies

- “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Give It Away” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Nothing Could Keep Me From You” music video (watch or download [here](#))

#### Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

#### Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



## CRAFT

### Share-Bears

[20 min]

### Supplies

- brown paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- “Share-Bear” handouts (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- self-sticking googly eyes (½ inch or bigger) (2 per child)
- crayons
- tape
- glue sticks
- newspaper or colored tissue paper
- small prizes such as stickers, preschool-safe bouncy balls, or other fun toys

### Easy Prep

- Cut each “Share-Bear” handout in half so that each child has a bear front and a bear back.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.





### **Decorate the Bears**

Say: **We learned from the Bible today that Jesus-followers care for others. Let's make a craft that will help us care for others like the Samaritan in Jesus' story did. The Samaritan helped a man who was hurt and needed extra love. We'll make teddy bears to share with people who need a little extra love!**

Give each child a front and a back of the bear. Allow time for kids to color their bears. Kids can also add self-sticking googly eyes to the bear's face.

### **Fill the Bears**

Help the children shred colored tissue paper or recycled newspaper and fill the paper lunch bags with the pieces. At some point, each child can also put one prize inside his or her bag. When the bag is full, help fold over the top and tape it shut and then help glue the front of the bear to one side and the back of the bear to the other side.

### **Talk About It**

Share something that helps *you* feel better when you're sad.

Ask: • **What makes you feel better when you're sad?**

Say: **Sometimes teddy bears can help us feel better when we're sad.** Show kids how they can gently hug the teddy bear crafts they made.

Say: **Let's find people who seem sad this week and give them bears to care for them. The bears will help the people feel loved. Showing love is a way Jesus-followers care for others.**

Encourage kids to take their crafts home and give the bears to people to show Jesus' love and care.





## Supplies

- Bible
- brown paper lunch bag
- paper
- adhesive bandages (2 per child)
- large, old T-shirt
- stuffed animals, dolls, or toy figures (1 per child)

## Easy Prep

- Cut paper into slips that are about the size of the adhesive bandages. Cut a couple of slips for each child.
- Remove the outer packaging from the bandages.
- Place all the paper slips and half of the bandages in the brown paper lunch bag. (Set aside the bandages that you didn't put in the bag.) Shake the bag to evenly distribute the paper slips and bandages.

## Help a Neighbor

Have the children gather around you at one end of your room.

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible says that sometimes Jesus told stories. Today we'll hear a story that Jesus told about how to love your neighbor. He taught that Jesus-followers care for others. Let's hear the story now.**

**I'll need you all to help me tell the story. First, I need someone to act like a man walking down the street.** Choose one child to be the man, and have him or her put on the old T-shirt. Have the "man" slowly walk back and forth in front of the group of children.

Say: **There was a man—pretend our friend here is the man in the story—and he was walking down the street. He was on a long walk.** Have all the children pretend to yawn to show it was a long walk. The man should still be walking back and forth.

Say: **Out of nowhere, some mean people came and hurt him.** Have the man lie on the floor in the center of your room. **The mean people even took his things and left him hurting and sad on the side of the road.** Have the children say "aw" to show that they know he's hurt and sad.

Say: **In Jesus' story, there were a few people who walked down that same street, and they saw the hurt and sad man. Let's play a game to see what they did.** Have the man continue to lie on the floor and pretend to be hurt by moaning and groaning.

Say: **Pretend this is the street.** Point at the floor from the wall children are sitting near to the other end of the room. **In a moment, you'll walk from one end of the street to the other end.**

Show the brown paper lunch bag. Say: **What's in this bag will help you know how to walk from one end of our street to the other end. You'll each get a turn to pull something from the bag. If you get a bandage, walk down our street and stop to help our hurt friend by putting the bandage on his [or her] T-shirt. If you get a paper slip, walk to the other end of our street quickly without helping our hurt friend.** Check for understanding, and then remind children that they're acting out the story Jesus told.

Let each child take something from the bag and then walk across the room accordingly. Remind children what they'll do as they pull the items from the bag. Continue until all the children have reached the opposite end of the room.

Say: **Let's play once more.**

Choose a different child to be the hurt man, and have him or her put on the T-shirt inside out and lie in the center of the room. Encourage the child to pretend to be hurt and sad by moaning and groaning. Let the children choose from the bag again. Have them play again by walking across the room and either helping the man if they get a bandage or just walking quickly by if they get a paper slip.

Say: **Jesus said that most of the people who walked by the hurt man didn't help him. They were the hurt man's neighbors, but they still didn't help him. But there was one person who *did* stop to help the hurt man. We call that man the "Samaritan man" because he was from a place called Samaria. The**

**Samaritan man wasn't friends with the hurt man, but he still wanted to help the hurt man. If you didn't get to help one of our hurt friends, you can now.** Invite all the children who didn't pull a bandage from the bag during the game to take a bandage to the hurt friend, place it on the T-shirt, and then help the hurt friend up and over to your group.

Say: **Thank you for caring for our hurt man! When we're friends with Jesus, we care for others.**

### **Practice Caring for Others**

Say: **Jesus told the people to love their neighbors. When Jesus said "neighbors," he meant everyone we meet. In Jesus' story, he told about the Samaritan man who wasn't even friends with the hurt man but cared for the hurt man anyway. Jesus wants us to love and care for everyone we meet.**

Give each child a stuffed animal, doll, or toy figure. Say: **Let's use these toys to practice caring for others.**

Share a couple of ways *you* can care for others. As you share, do something to demonstrate with a toy, and have the children copy you with their own toys.

Invite the children to take turns sharing ways they can care for someone. For each idea a child shares, have all the children show that way of caring by doing something similar to "care" for their toys.

Here are some ideas if children have trouble thinking of ways to care for others:

- Clean a cut. (Pretend to use a washcloth to wipe the toy's arm.)
- Put on a bandage. (Pretend to wrap a bandage around the toy's leg.)
- Carry a friend who hurt his leg. (Cradle the toy and walk once around the room.)
- Give a hug to a sad friend. (Hug the toy.)
- Wipe away a sad friend's tears. (Pretend to use a tissue to wipe the toy's eyes.)
- Invite someone who's all alone to play. (Hold the toy's hand and walk around the room.)
- Help a scared friend. (Rub the toy's shoulder.)

Continue as time allows. Then say: **You did a great job showing how to care for others with your toys. Each of you can care for real people, like the Samaritan man cared for the hurt man in Jesus' story. You don't have to be friends with a hurting or sad person to help him or her. You can show love to everyone you meet. We are Jesus-followers, and Jesus-followers care for others.**



### Supplies

- “The Good Samaritan” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

### Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

### Discuss and Watch “The Good Samaritan”

Ask: • **If you fell down and skinned your knee, who would you expect to be the first person to run right over and help you?** Share who you expect would do this for you first, and then have kids get into groups of three and share their own answers.

Ask: • **Now think about this. Who would be the *last* person you would expect to run over and help you if you skinned your knee?** Again, share your own answer. Avoid naming someone specifically, but name a kind of person, such as a bully. Then have kids share their thoughts in their small groups.

Say: **We’re learning about a man in the Bible who helped someone in an unexpected way. Let’s watch a video that tells his story in a funny way.**

Watch “The Good Samaritan.”

Say: **The Jewish man who was hurt in this story probably expected that the priest and the Levite would have stopped to help him. They were also Jews like him, and they were considered leaders. So it was surprising that they didn’t help the man. The Samaritan man who did stop to help was the last person the Jewish man would have expected to help him. As the donkey in the video explained, the Jews and the Samaritans didn’t get along. But the Samaritan helped the man anyway and made sure he had good care.**

Ask: • **When you see someone who needs help, how do you decide if you’ll help that person or not? Does it matter if you know the person or not?**

- **What’s an example today of a “good Samaritan”?**

Say: **We’re learning that Jesus-followers care for others. Jesus didn’t show love only to people who were his friends or who were like him—he loves everyone! When we’re friends with Jesus, we have that same love for people, too, and show care for others as a way to let them know the love of Jesus.**



### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order here)
- tissue
- bandage
- ice pack
- water bottle

### Easy Prep

- Ask an adult or teen helper ahead of time to “take Theo home,” as described in the Leader’s last line of the script.

### Tips

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.
- Depending on the size of your group, you may have each child do several things to care for Theo, you may have every child do one thing, or you may have kids get in pairs or groups to do something.

Leader: **It’s time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let’s call him to our class with a “woof, woof.” Ready?** (*Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.*)

Theo: (*Rushes in, looking back afraid.*) **I really, really need a good scratch. Friends, will you scratch my back?** (*Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.*)

Leader: (*Looks to Theo.*) **Is everything okay, Theo?**

Theo: **I met some bullies on my way over, and they pushed me down.** (*Begins crying.*)

Leader: **That’s awful, Theo. I’m sorry that happened to you.** (*Rubs Theo’s back as he continues to cry, and at the same time whispers to kids.*) **Kids, today we were learning from Jesus that his followers care for others. I think we can put what we learned to practice right now. What should we do?** (*Listens to kids’ ideas.*)

Theo: **What are you talking about?**

Leader: **Theo, we’d like to take care of you. Would you mind if we did some things to help you feel better?**

Theo: **I wouldn’t mind. Thank you, friends.**

Leader: (*Leads kids to practice caring for others by caring for Theo in the ways they brainstormed and by using a tissue to wipe his tears, bandaging where he says he has an owie, holding an ice pack to put on his aches and pains, and giving him some water to help him calm down. Take a majority of the time caring for Theo.*)

Theo: **Thank you for taking care of me. It means so much to me.**

Leader: **You’re welcome. I think you should go home and get some rest now. One of our leaders will take you home to make sure you stay safe.**

Theo: **Thank you. I hope to see you next week!**

Leader: **'Bye, Theo! Let's give Theo a "woof, woof, goodbye"!** *(Leads kids in a "woof, woof, goodbye," and then asks an adult or teen helper to "take Theo home." The helper will step out of sight with Theo for a moment before returning.)*



## OBJECT LESSON

### Care for the Bubbles

---

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- water (1½ cups)
- dish soap (½ cup)
- corn syrup (at least ½ cup)
- medium bowl
- spoon
- bubble wand or chenille wire
- trash bags

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have a bubble wand, make one with a chenille wire by making a loop with the end of the chenille wire and twisting the end around the straight part.
- Mix water, dish soap, and corn syrup in a bowl. Use the bubble wand to test how strong your bubbles are. You'll want them to be strong enough that you can catch one and hold it for 20 seconds to a minute. (Prepare this just before class to ensure the corn syrup retains its stickiness that keeps the bubbles from popping easily.)
- Cut open trash bags to create a tarp for protecting carpet or upholstery.

#### Tip

- This bubble solution will wash off skin and clothes, but it's harder to clean from carpet because of the sticky corn syrup. Do this in an area without carpet, or place trash bags over carpets or upholstery for easy cleanup.

#### Play With Bubbles

Say: **The Samaritan man cared for the hurt person beside the road. Jesus says we can care for others, too. Let's play a game to help us practice caring for something.**

Blow bubbles from your homemade solution, and encourage children to catch them and "care" for them by trying to keep them safe. They can hold them carefully and try to keep them from breaking. You can let older preschoolers take turns blowing the bubbles, too. Play as time allows.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you do to keep the bubbles safe and cared for?**

Say: **You all did a great job caring for the bubbles! It was good practice for caring for our friends and family. And that's what we do when Jesus is our friend! The Bible says that Jesus-followers care for others. You can care for others by being kind and gentle like you were with the bubbles.**



## Supplies

- Bible
- classroom toys

## Learn a Song

Say: **We're learning that Jesus-followers care for others. That means people like us who love Jesus care for others. Our Bible verse for today tells us more about that.**

Open a Bible to 1 John 3:18, and show the verse to kids. Say: **The Bible says, "Don't just say you love people—show it!" We can show we love other people.**

Share a couple of ways *you* show love to other people. Focus on examples that are actions.

Ask: • **What things do you do to show love to someone?**

Say: **Let's learn a song about showing love to others.**

Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands. Have them walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing this song to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie":

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love**

**By what we do!** (*while still holding hands, kids raise their hands together during this line*)

Sing the song a few times so kids learn it.

## Share Toys

Say: **What we do for friends can show we love and care about them. We can show love to friends by doing some of the things we talked about earlier, like** [remind kids of some examples they gave when you asked them what things they can do to show love]. Let children share more things they can do to show love to friends if they have more ideas.

Say: **One thing friends might do is share. Let's sing our song again, and we'll practice showing love by sharing a toy at the end of the song.** Have children walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing the song again. (The last verse is different.)

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love.**

**Share your toys!** (*kids each run and get a toy and then share it with another child; make sure each child gets one toy*)

After children have a moment to look at the toys that were shared with them, have them put aside the toys.

## Give High-Fives

Say: **Thanks for sharing! Sharing is a great way to show love to a friend. Another way to show love is to give hugs or high-fives.** Give high-fives to a few kids. **Good friends don't hit; they high-five! Let's sing our song again, and we'll show love by giving high-fives at the end.** Have children walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing the song again. (The last verse is different.)

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love.**

**Give high-fives!** (*kids give high-fives to each other*)

### Give Hugs

Say: **Great job giving high-fives! Now let's show love by giving hugs. We'll sing our song again, and we'll show love by hugging at the end.** Have children walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing the song again. (The last verse is different.)

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love.**

**Give a hug!** (*kids hug each other*)

Say: **Hugs help us feel loved when we're happy. And hugs show us love when we're sad. Hugs are a great way to show love!**

### Say Nice Things

Say: **Saying nice things can also help others feel better when they're sad. It's a way to show love.**

Share a few nice things that *you* might say to someone to show love. For example, you might say something nice when you like someone's clothes, shoes, or hairstyle. You might say something nice to someone about things he or she does well. You might just thank the person for being your friend. Or you might say "I love you."

Ask: • **What's a nice thing you can say to show love to someone?** Help children with ideas, such as saying nice things about the other person or thanking the person when he or she is nice.

Say: **Friends say nice things to each other. Let's sing our song again, and we'll show love by saying something nice at the end. When our song ends, find someone else and tell that person "You're great!"** Have children walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing the song again. (The last verse is different.)

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love.**

**Say nice things!** (*kids tell each other "you're great!"*)

### Sing Again

If you have extra time, sing a few more times, repeating the verses above. You might try not telling kids which verse you're going to sing and challenging them to do the loving thing as soon as they hear what you sing.

Close the activity by saying: **You all did great showing love. You showed that you can care for others when you shared, gave high-fives, hugged, and said nice things. There are a lot of ways to show love and care for others. And we want to do that because Jesus-followers care for others.**





## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Helper Race

---

#### Supplies

- cotton balls (about 5 per child)
- paper bowls (1 for about every 3 children)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Place paper bowls on the floor along one side of the room, spaced evenly.
- Spread out the cotton balls along the opposite wall.

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

#### Race With Cotton Balls

Say: **In Jesus' story, a man was hurt and someone helped him. Let's play a helping game.**

Have the preschoolers stand along the wall with the cotton balls.

Say: **When I say "go," carry a cotton ball across the room on the back of your hand and put it in one of the bowls.** Demonstrate carrying a cotton ball on the back of your hand and dropping it into a bowl. Then have all the children practice.

After kids practice, have them line up on the wall with the cotton balls again. Then say: **This time, if you drop your cotton ball, a helper will pick it up for you.** Demonstrate by having a helper pick up cotton balls you drop as you walk across the room. When you drop one, stop and wait for the helper to bring you the cotton ball.

Say: **Who wants to be a helper in the game?** Choose a few children to be helpers. If you have more than twelve children, choose one helper for about every four carriers.

Have the children play. This time, the children who are carrying the cotton balls will stop if they drop one and wait for helpers to come around and help. As kids play, look for dropped cotton balls, and encourage the helpers to pick them up for the carriers. You may also have to remind the carriers not to pick up the cotton balls they drop.

After the carriers put their cotton balls into a bowl, have them run back to the opposite wall and repeat the game with another cotton ball.

After all the cotton balls are in the bowls, choose new helpers and repeat the game. Make sure all the children have an opportunity to be helpers.

Optionally, play upbeat music as preschoolers play. Play as time allows.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you feel like when someone helped you?**

• **What did you feel like when you helped someone?**

Say: **It feels good to help others, and it feels good when others help us. Helping is one way Jesus-followers care for others.**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Pass and Care

---

#### Supplies

- stuffed animal\* (1 for every 10 kids)
- upbeat music
- music player

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

#### Play a Version of Hot Potato

Have preschoolers sit in circles of 10 or fewer children.

Say: **In Jesus' story, the Samaritan man cared for someone who was hurt.** Hold up a stuffed animal. **We even practiced ways to care for others with our toys. Let's play a game now to care for this toy.** Play the music, and have the children gently pass the stuffed animal around the circle. While still playing the music, say: **In a moment, I'm going to stop the music. If you're holding the animal when the music stops, care for it by giving it a hug.** After a few seconds, stop the music and remind the child holding it to give it a hug.

Turn the music back on and have kids continue to pass the stuffed animal around the circle. Occasionally stop the music and encourage the preschooler holding the animal to give it a hug.

After a few rounds, change the way preschoolers care for the animal when the music stops. You can use the following ideas or come up with a few of your own. Consider using each idea more than once.

- Pretend to feed the animal.
- Pat the animal on the head.
- Cradle the animal.
- Pretend to give the animal a bath.
- Scratch the animal's back.

Make sure each child gets a chance to care for the stuffed animal. If you have an extra-large group, have adult or teen helpers make sure as many kids as possible get a turn.

Repeat the game as time allows.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **How did you feel when you got to care for the stuffed animal?**

Say: **It feels good to show others we care. Like you cared for the stuffed animal, Jesus-followers care for others.**



### Singing Prayers

---

#### Sing a Song

Say: **Today we learned that Jesus-followers care for others. That's us! We can care for others by saying we love others *and* by showing love to others! Let's sing about showing love to others now.**

Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands. Have them walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing this song to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie":

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Show love, show love**

**By what we do!** (*while still holding hands, kids raise their hands together during this line*)

Sing the song a few times so kids learn it.

#### Sing a Prayer

Say: **Jesus can help us love each other. We can ask him for help, and we can learn how Jesus shows love and copy him. Now let's ask Jesus to help us care for and love others. Let's sing a prayer to Jesus.**

Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands. Have them walk around in a circle together as you lead them in singing this song to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie":

**We can love each other.**

**We can love each other.**

**Jesus, show us** (*kids let go of hands and make prayer hands*)

**How we can love!** (*prayer hands*)

**We can love each other.** (*rejoin hands*)

**We can love each other.**

**Jesus, help us** (*kids let go of hands and make prayer hands*)

**To care and love!** (*prayer hands*)

**We can love each other.** (*rejoin hands*)

**We can love each other.**

**Jesus, help us** (*kids let go of hands and make prayer hands*)

**To be good friends!** (*prayer hands*)

Sing the prayer as time allows. Then close in prayer for the group, thanking Jesus for showing us how to care for others. Say: **It was great seeing you today! This week, find some ways to care for others because Jesus-followers care for others.**



---

## Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

## Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

---

The Life of Jesus, Lesson 13: Parable of the Good Samaritan. Design and base content copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. Licensed for use with 21-40 students. Permission to reproduce granted for local church use only.