

## JESUS TEACHES COMPASSION AND MERCY

### Objective

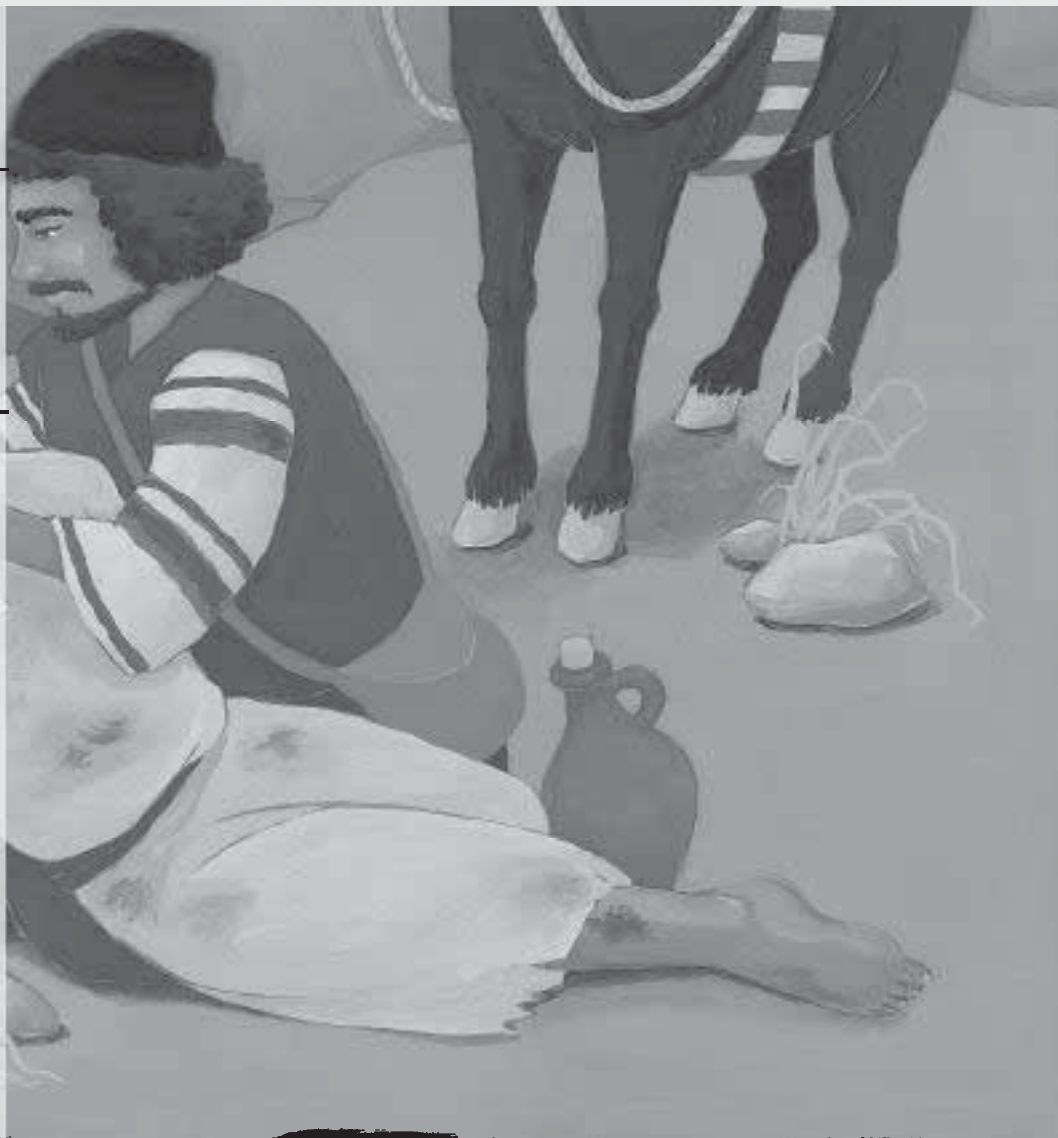
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The children learn that the Lord expects us to be compassionate.

### Contents

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- The good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37).
- What is compassion?
- We want to be compassionate to our neighbour.



**Lesson Plan****Lead-In**

Workbook, Exercise 1

**Implementation**

Workbook, Text

The children read the “news reports” and answer the questions.

Let the children tell the story or read the workbook text. Ask them what important contents are missing in the reports from Jericho and Jerusalem which they have read.

- A priest indeed saw the injured man, but did not help him.
- The Holy Bible does not tell us why the priest did not help.
- A Levite (i.e., a servant in the temple) saw the injured man, but also passed by without helping him.
- Of all people, a Samaritan helped him, a people despised by the Jews.

**Discussion, Teacher's Presentation**

The Lord Jesus recounted these events to a scribe who had asked him how he could attain eternal life. Jesus had countered with the question, “What is written in the law? how readest thou?” The scribe knew the law and gave the correct answer.

The children first take turns reading the passages in the Mosaic Law which the Lord Jesus was referring to.

Bible

Deuteronomy 6:5:

*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”*

Bible

Leviticus 19:18:

*“... thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.”*

Now a child reads the scribe's answer to Jesus' question.

Bible

Luke 10:27:

*“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”*

## Question Prompt

When the scribe asked, “Who is my neighbour?” the Lord Jesus recounted the events about the man who had been attacked. At the end, he asked the scribe, who among the three men had been the neighbour of the injured one.

The scribe answered, “*He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go and do thou likewise*” (Luke 10:37).

How did the Samaritan’s compassion and mercy show itself?

Using the Bible verses Luke 10:33–35, discuss the Samaritan’s compassion step by step. Read the Bible text aloud and elaborate on the answers in a discussion with the children.

■ *... and when he saw him, he had compassion on him ...*” (Luke 10:33).

The other two men saw the injured man just like the Samaritan, but only the Samaritan was moved and had compassion for the one who had been attacked.

■ *“And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine ...”* (Luke 10:34).

He interrupted his journey to look after the injured man, and even paid the innkeeper to look after him.

■ *“... set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn ...”* (Luke 10:34).

He took the time to bring him to a safe place.

■ *“... and took care of him”* (Luke 10:34).

As long as he was there, he himself cared for the injured man.

■ *“... he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee”* (Luke 10:35).

He parted with some of his personal possessions to pay for him to be looked after. He ensured that the man would continue to be cared for, and encouraged the host to do more than the usual. Later he would pay him for everything.

**Discussion**

This biblical report is important for us. From it we learn how we are to behave toward our neighbour when he has come to harm or is in need.

Emphasize that we are compassionate when we take someone else's misfortune and need to heart, regardless of whether we like him or her, or not. Out of sympathy, we are prompted to help, if need be, using our own means.

Write on the board:

**Board**

**Being compassionate and merciful includes**

- seeing, and feeling pity,
- taking time to help, and
- using one's own means to assist.

Concrete examples from everyday life are sought.

- Visiting people who are ill, lonely or elderly;
- encouraging and comforting children who are sad;
- playing or talking with children who are ostracized by others;
- etc.

If we are compassionate toward our fellow-man, we will be shown compassion in return. Jesus promised this in the Sermon on the Mount (cf. Matthew 5:7).

**Workbook,  
Exercises 2 and 3**

The children record the board text into the table in exercise 2 and complete the sentence in exercise 3.

**Conclusion****Discussion**

In conclusion, the children and teacher discuss how they will exercise compassion in the time ahead (i.e., they agree upon whom they want to help especially).

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