

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God sends
us helpers.

BIBLE

The Parable of the Good Samaritan:
Luke 10:25–37

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There are lots of movies about brave and daring rescues, but what might it look like to become an everyday hero? This week, we'll hear Jesus tell a story about a Samaritan who helped a wounded man when no one else did. God invites us to help people who are in need, and when we need help ourselves,

God sends us helpers.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Rescue Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need towels and stuffed animals, baby dolls, or other similar toys. Have all the animals or toys in a pile on one side of your space. Gather kids on the other side of your space. Show kids how to pair up and hold a towel between them. Once they reach the other side, they pick a "friend" to rescue and put on their towel. Then have the pair bring the stuffed animal or toy back to safety without dropping it. You can set this up as a relay race or have one pair at a time try this out.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of a towel, provide containers that might be easier for toddlers to carry their "friend" without dropping them.*
- Some action movies are about daring rescues, with brave heroes who selflessly run into danger to save other people. But sometimes, ordinary people can be heroes, too! Today's Bible story is about how someone nobody thought was a hero ended up saving someone who needed his help.

ACTIVITY | Bandage Wrap

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, divide your group into two teams or play together as one large group. Each group will wrap a leader with toilet paper or crepe paper streamers. Have the leader hold one end of the paper, and have one kid hold the roll while walking in a circle around the leader. Then hand it off to the next kid. Have leaders sitting on a chair so preschoolers can reach them more easily. Encourage kids to cover up as much of the leader as possible but not cover the nose.*
- When someone is hurt, they need help right away before their injuries get worse. Let's pretend our leader is injured, and we need to bandage up our leader as quickly as possible. I need everyone to help!
- In real life, make sure you call a grown-up to help someone who's hurt. In today's Bible story, we'll learn about a man who got hurt, but nobody wanted to help.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Set up the space like a movie theater, with kids seated in rows facing you. Play an old-fashioned movie countdown (similar to [this](#)) before you begin teaching. For today's story, prepare a large stuffed animal to represent the injured man in the story. Lay the stuffed animal in the middle of the room and only pick it up when you talk about the Samaritan man.
- It's time for the *Big Picture!* **Who likes watching movies?** Me too! Movies are a fun way to tell a story. Jesus, God's son, sometimes told stories called "parables." Parables helped people learn true and important things about God.
- Today's *Big Picture* parable is about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Then, a group of robbers showed up. Oh no! They took everything he had and left him wounded by the side of the road.
- A priest was walking down the road and saw the man lying on the ground. A priest was someone who worked at the temple.
 - **Do you think the priest stopped to help?**
 - No. He crossed over to the other side.
- Then, a Levite, who would have worked with the priest at the temple, came down the same road and saw the man lying on the ground.
 - **Do you think the Levite stopped to help?**
 - No. He crossed over to the other side, too.
- Was anyone going to help this man?
- Just then, a Samaritan came along. The Samaritan came from a different country than everyone else. The injured man would not have gotten along with someone from Samaria. That's just how it was. No one would ever believe a Samaritan would stop to help.
 - **But do you think he stopped to help?**
 - Yes! The Samaritan man helped!
 - He put medicine on his wounds, bandaged him up, and put him on his own donkey to take him to a place where he could rest and heal.
- When Jesus was done telling this story, he asked a question. Which of these three was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers: the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan?
 - **What do you think? Who was the neighbor to the injured man?**
 - It was the Samaritan!
- The Samaritan was a neighbor, not because he lived close by or because he came from the same country. He was a neighbor because he showed God's love and kindness.
- Jesus showed us through this parable that we can be good neighbors and helpers to everyone, and when we need it, God sends us the right kind of neighbors and helpers, too!

BIG IDEA | God sends us helpers.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write one word of the Big Idea on separate sheets of yellow paper. Crumple up each of those papers along with blank sheets, and place them in a large popcorn bucket (like [this](#)). Invite kids to come to the front, one at a time, and pull out a "popcorn" from the bucket. For added fun, throw the "popcorn" in the air and have kids scramble to grab one. Give them a chance to smooth out the paper. If their paper contains a word, read it out loud for them. Once all the words are found, put them in order and have kids repeat after you while learning the motions below.
- Our poppin' new Big Idea for today is ...

- **God** (Point up.)
- **sends us** (Point to you.)
- **helpers.** (Point to the kids.)

VIDEO | *Big Picture*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Who's Your Neighbor?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, all you need is some fun, upbeat music. Have kids roam around or dance along to the music. When the music stops, everyone has to find a "neighbor" and get in pairs by shaking hands or linking arms. Then, the music starts again, and everyone dances. When the music stops, they must find a new "neighbor." Continue as long as kids are having fun and time allows.
- Look at all the neighbors God gave us! We all look different. Sound different. Smell different! But God loves us the same and wants us to love each other, too. That means when we need help, we can ask for help. And we can do the helping!
- **God sends us helpers.**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for sending helpers when we are in need. We pray that you will also send us to help others when they are in need. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Movie Popcorn

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For snacks this month, serve popcorn in popcorn bags or small brown paper bags with different mix-ins or flavors—M&Ms, goldfish crackers, raisins, marshmallows, cereal, cheese flavoring, cheese puffs, and more. You can provide a variety each week for kids to choose from or focus on one each week. As kids enjoy their movie snack, you may choose to show a fun clip like [this scene](#) from "The Paw Patrol Movie," [this retelling](#) of today's parable, or something similar.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Popcorn is a choking hazard for toddlers. Offer toddlers some oat cereal as an alternative. You can serve them in boxes like [these](#) for fun.
- Let's pretend you are in some kind of trouble. **Who would be the worst helper? Who would be the best helper?**
- Always remember that God loves you and takes care of you. When you are in need, God will send you the help you need. And when others are in need, God might send you to help!
- **God sends us helpers!**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Have a teddy bear in the middle of the circle with bandages (have these unwrapped so it's easier for kids). Kids can take turns sticking bandages on the teddy bear as they answer the questions.
- **Did the first two people help the person who had been robbed and hurt?** No.
- **Who stopped to help?** The Samaritan.
- **Who are some people who help us?** Family, teachers, friends, doctors, community helpers, pets.
- **Can we help people, too? How?**
- **Who sends us helpers? God sends us helpers!**

ACTIVITY | Bandage Buddies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, obtain people cutouts like [these](#) (or make your own) and colorful, fun bandages. Have kids decorate their cutouts and stick bandages on them.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Peel off the backings of the bandages in advance and stick them on the edge of the table to make it easier for toddlers to grab and stick. You can also use pieces of masking tape instead of bandages.
- God sends us helpers, and we can help people, too! Take your bandage buddy home with you to help you remember what we learned today: **God sends us helpers!**

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (including the Scripture reference) to the tune of "Jesus Loves The Little Children." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Wrap A Friend

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have baby dolls and stuffed animals out for kids to wrap using toilet paper, crepe streamers, or long strips of cloth.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may not have the motor skills to wrap anything. Provide a toddler-appropriate doctor play kit that they can use to help a stuffed animal friend. You can also have stuffed animals already wrapped in toilet paper that they can remove to say their patient is all better.

ACTIVITY | Dress-Up Helpers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have dress-up costumes of doctors, police, firefighters, and other community helpers available for kids to play with and pretend to be helpers.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Is the toddler hungry? Frequent offers of snacks will ensure that everyone is happy. Toddlers may not always say they are hungry, but they will be fussy and grumpy. Keep simple snacks on hand, like crackers, that you can provide even outside of designated snack times.